BIG SPIRITS COMICS SPECIAL

ビリーバーズ I

山本直樹

BELIEVERS
Naoki Yamamoto
Art Works

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ビリーバーズ

原作―関 善之＋星野ゆきお（ZOKKON）
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

第1話
ISLAND 7

第2話
HOLE 33

第3話
FLOUR 53

第4話
SOMETHING PURPLE 73

第5話
DIRECT CONTACT 91

第6話
INTRUDER 111

第7話
FINAL DISPOSAL 129

第8話
BEACH 151

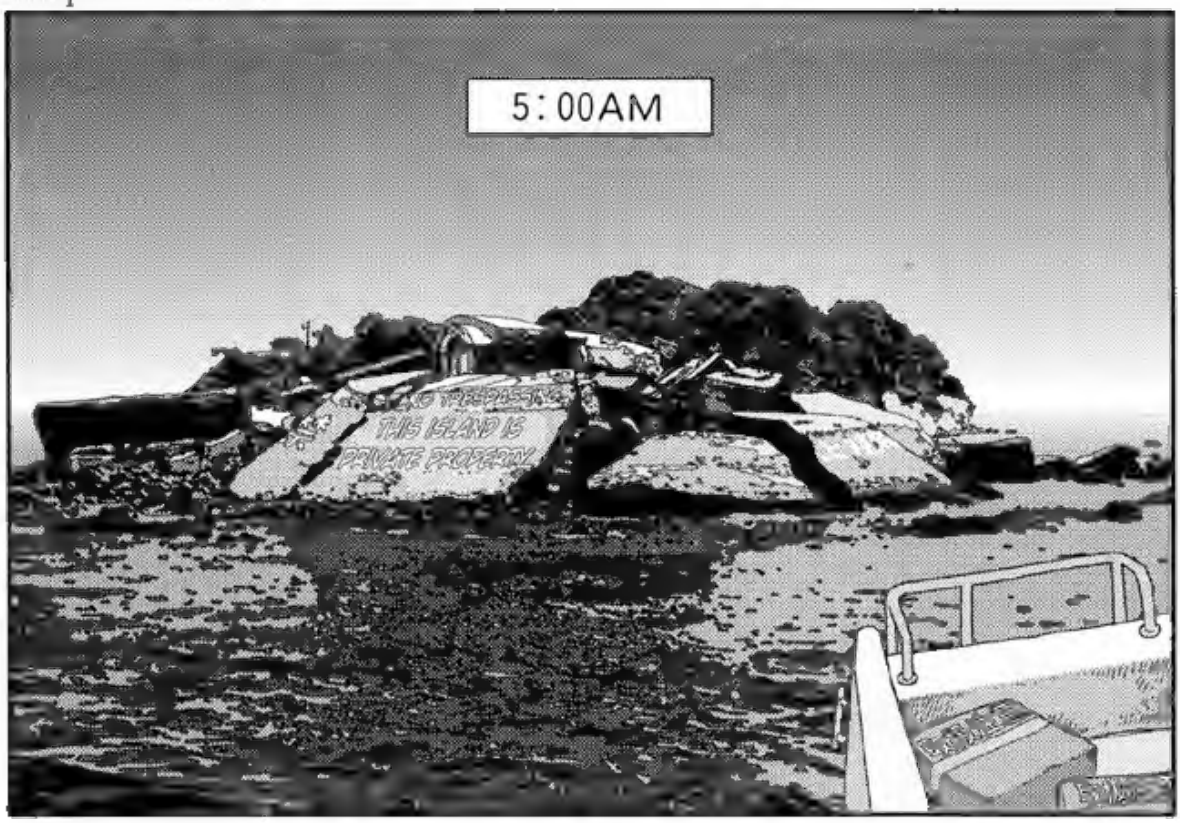
第9話
BINOCULARS 171

第10話
SCUMS 189

第11話
EMERGENCY MOTION 207

Believers is a work of fiction, and the characters, organizations etc. contained in this manga have no relation to existing ones.

The words that appear in double quotation marks in this story are terms that can only be understood by members of the organization depicted in Believers, and were originally meaningless words such as "jonerazaffiu" or "pu" or "riuxnbakrb?xawmimvrkxnfnkuyc!n7dvytsaru", but for purpose of convenience and readability, they have been translated into relevant Japanese words. Readers are encouraged to change them to words of their choice whilst reading this work.



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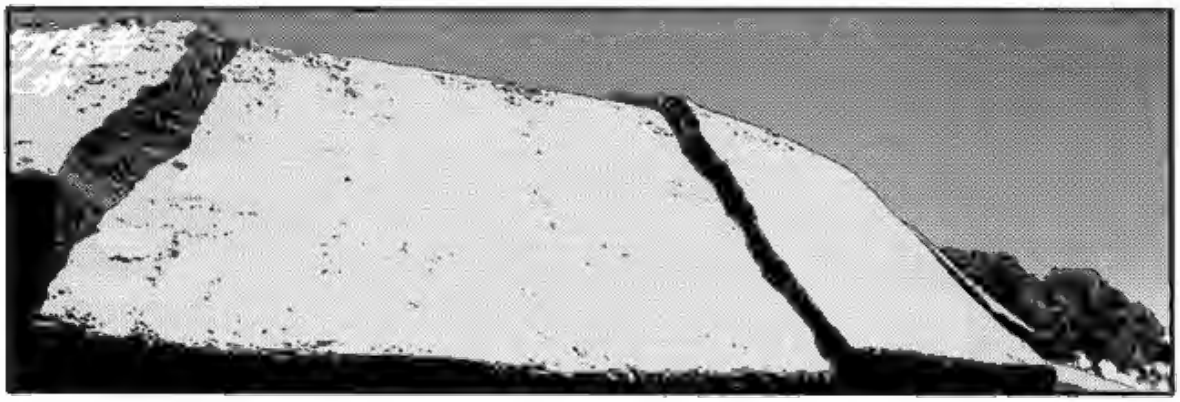

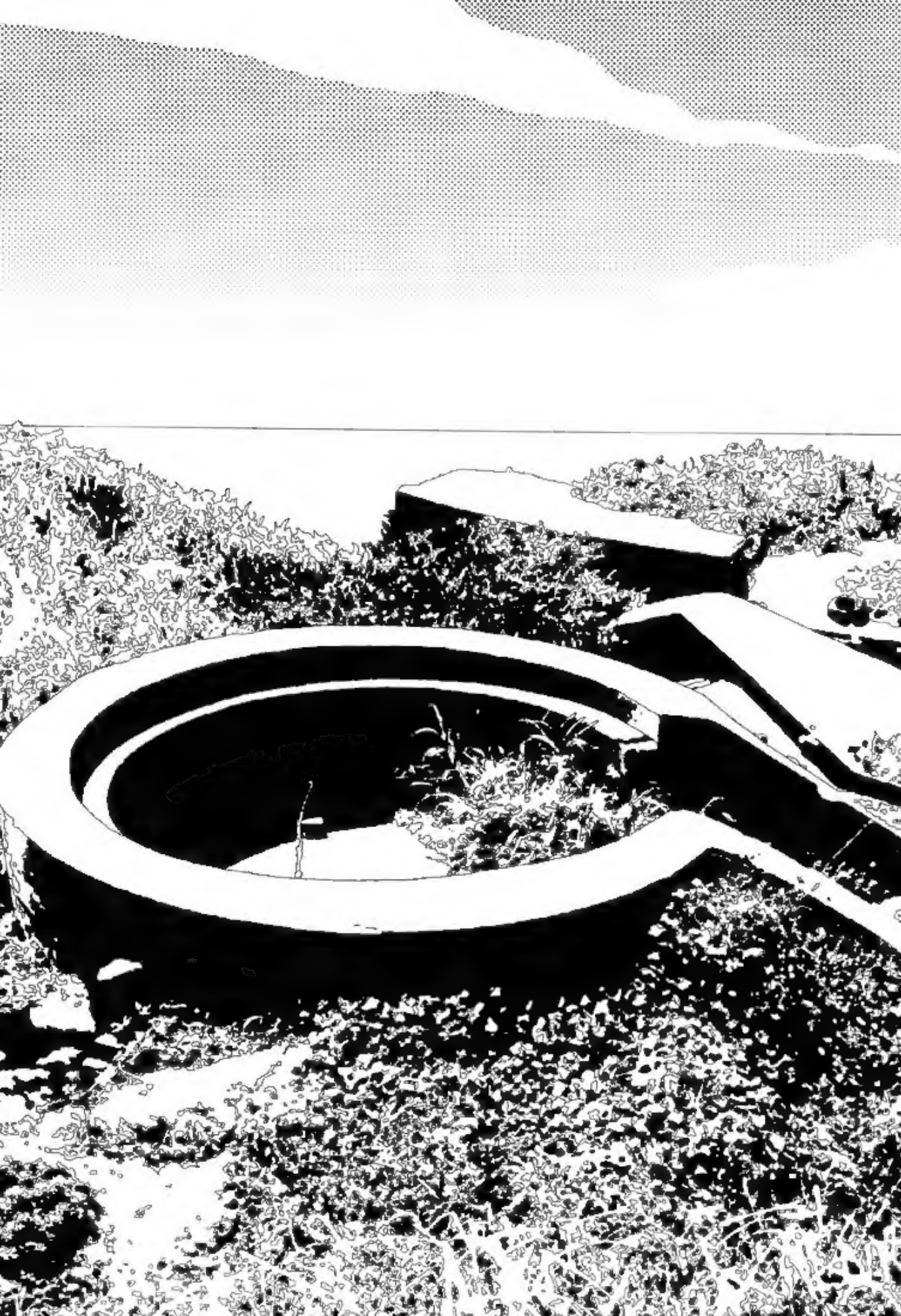

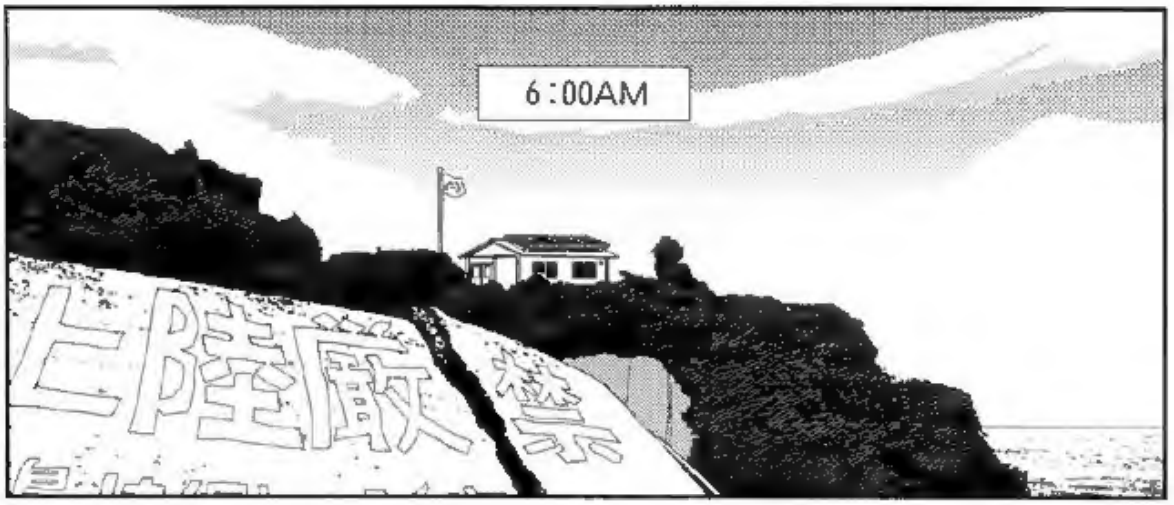

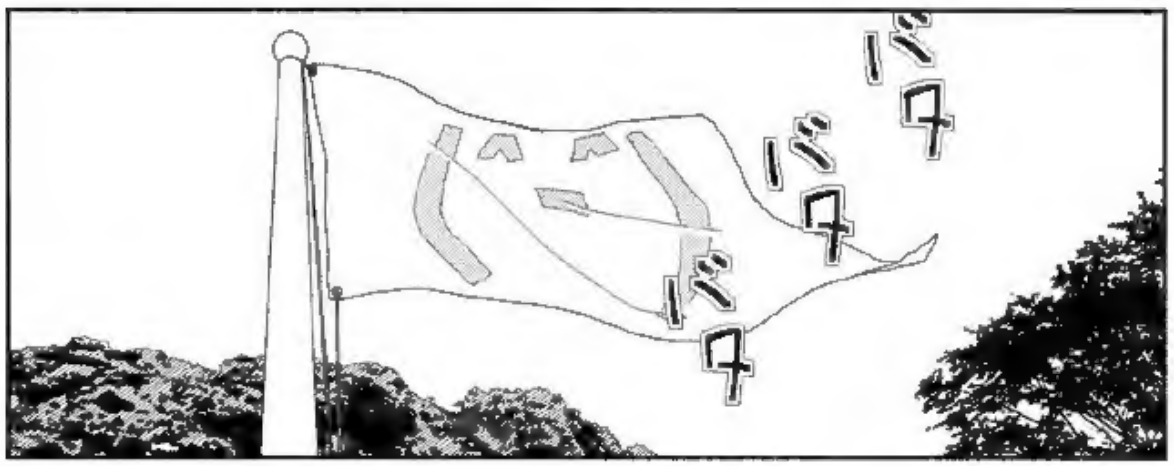

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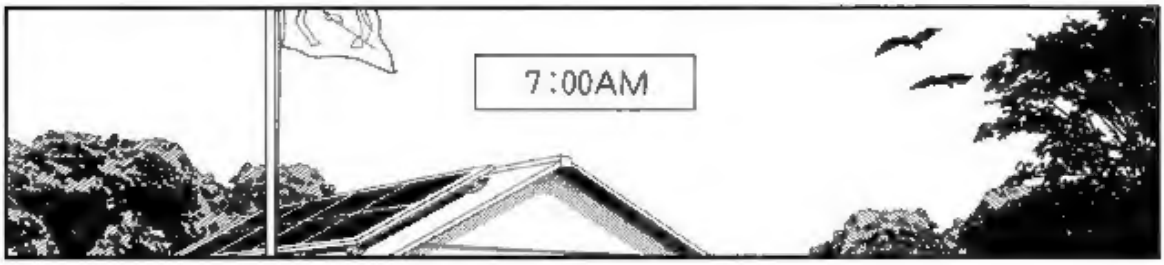
7:00AM

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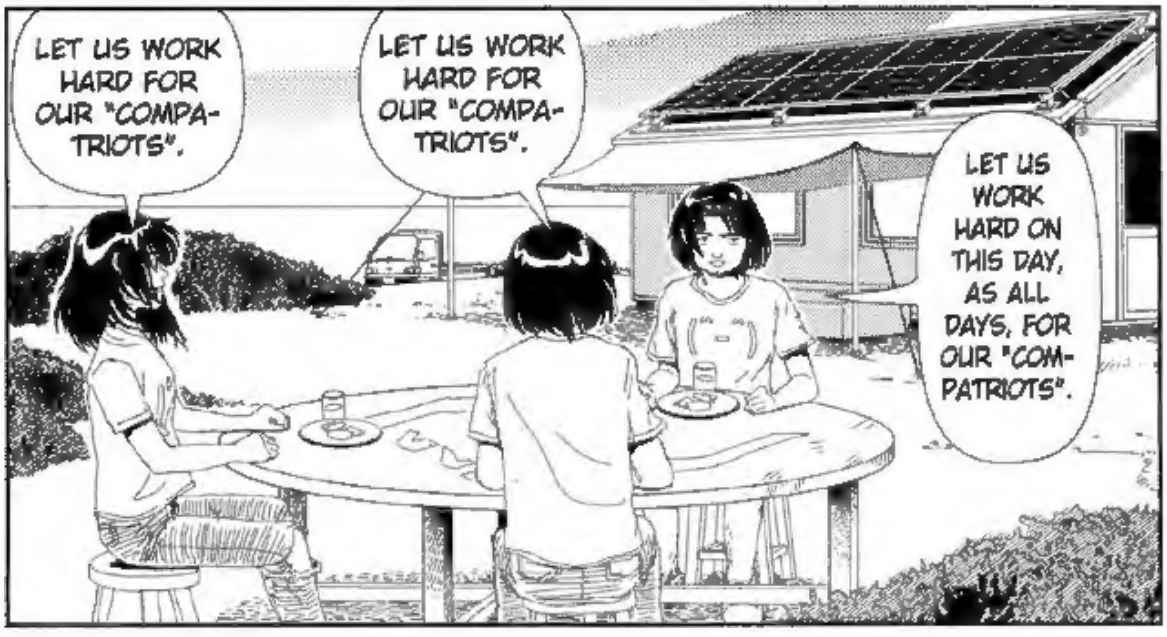
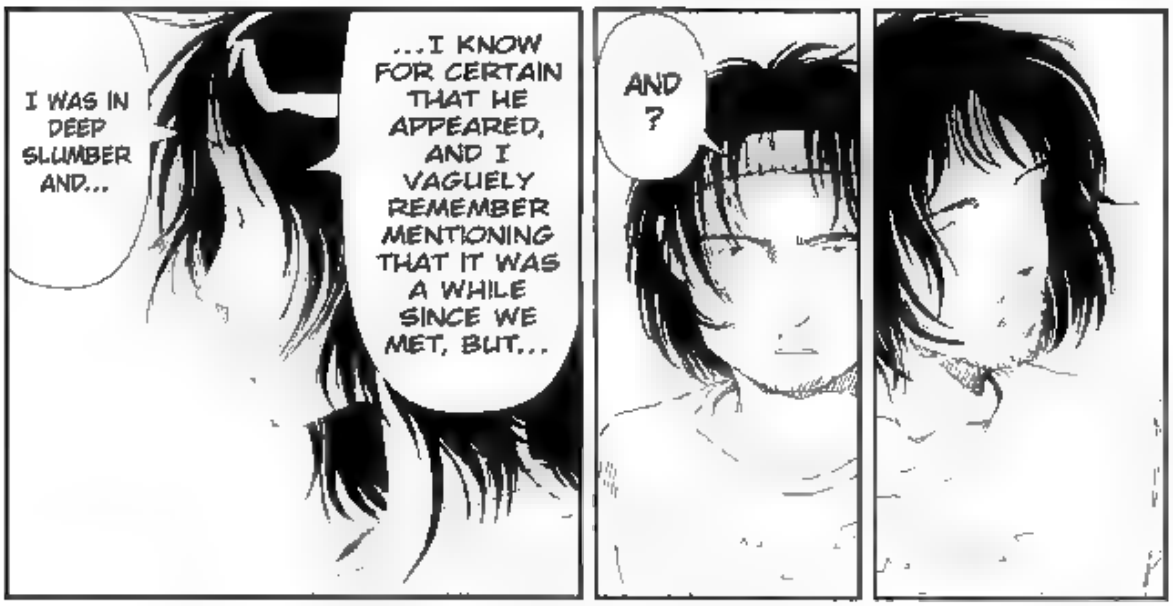

LET US WORK HARD FOR OUR "COMPA-TRIOTS".
LET US WORK HARD FOR OUR "COMPA-TRIOTS".
LET US WORK HARD ON THIS DAY, AS ALL DAYS, FOR OUR "COM-PATRIOTS".

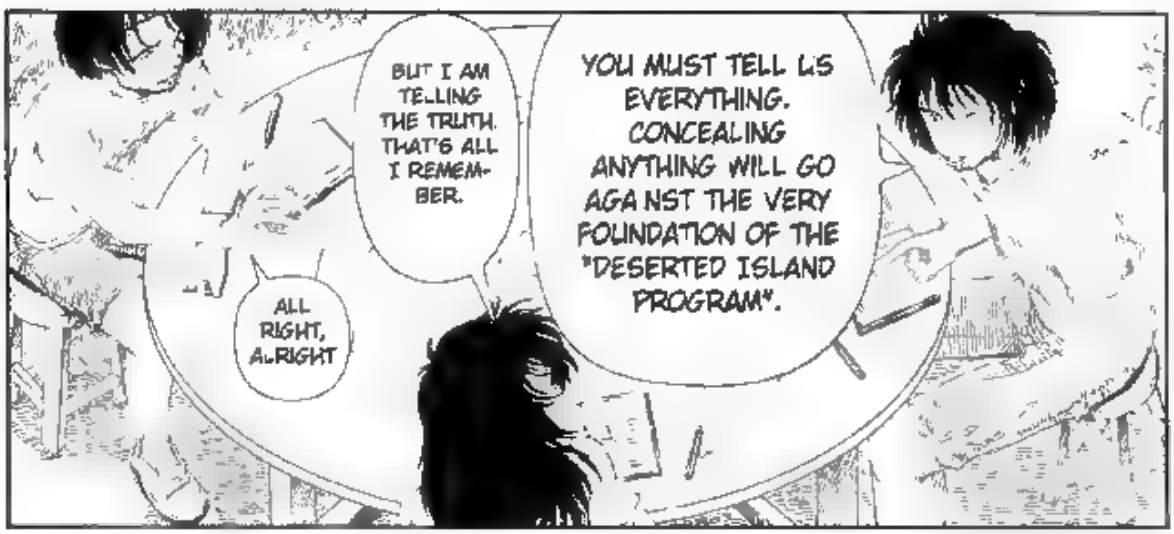
ACCORDING TO MY SELF-EVALUATION, I GAINED 6 POINTS AND MY RANKING WAS AT 59 YESTERDAY.
HOW ARE THINGS LATELY, "OPERATOR"?
SUCH A LOVELY MORNING.
INDEED. IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THE "WORLD" IS IN SUCH TURMOIL RIGHT NOW.
YOU'RE ALMOST THERE.
PERHAPS LONGER, IF WE CAN CONSERVE...
OUR WATER SUPPLY IS STILL PLENTIFUL, BUT OUR FOOD SUPPLY WILL ONLY LAST UNTIL TOMORROW.
HOW MUCH FOOD DO WE HAVE LEFT, "VICE CHAIRMAN"?
OH, THAT'S NOT WHAT I ...
MEANWHILE, LET US WORK HARD FOR OUR "COMPATRIOTS" WITHOUT LETTING OUR HUNGER UNDERMINE OUR RESOLVE.
WE SHOULD BE RECEIVING "INSTRUCTIONS" SOON.

8:00AM
I SAW THAT "DREAM" AGAIN LAST NIGHT.
I CAN'T. I ALWAYS TRY TO WRITE IT DOWN ON PAPER AFTER I WAKE UP, BUT THE WORDS THAT COME OUT SEEM SO CLICHED AND BANAL.
BUT YOU CAN'T REMEMBER IT.
I AWOKE IN TEARS, AS THE "DREAM" HAD SUCH A PROFOUND EFFECT ON ME.
A SPECTACULAR TALE OF WONDER AND EXCITEMENT
ADVENTURE, THRILL, ROMANCE, WAR AND PEACE, DEATH AND RESURRECTION, LOVE AND SORROW, WAR TANKS, BALLROOM DANCING AND A SPACE FLEET
IF I HAD, I WOULDN'T HAVE JOINED THE "ORGANIZATION", AND I WOULD'VE FOUND MYSELF MIRED IN THE MATERIAL WORLD.
BUT PERHAPS THIS IS FOR THE BETTER. PERHAPS THERE IS SOMEONE OUT THERE TELLING ME THAT I SHOULDN'T TAKE THAT PATH.
A BEST-SELLING NOVELIST?
IF I COULD REPRODUCE EVEN A FRACTION OF THE "DREAM", I WOULD BE ...
IT MUST MEAN, "THE TIME IS NOT RIGHT YET".

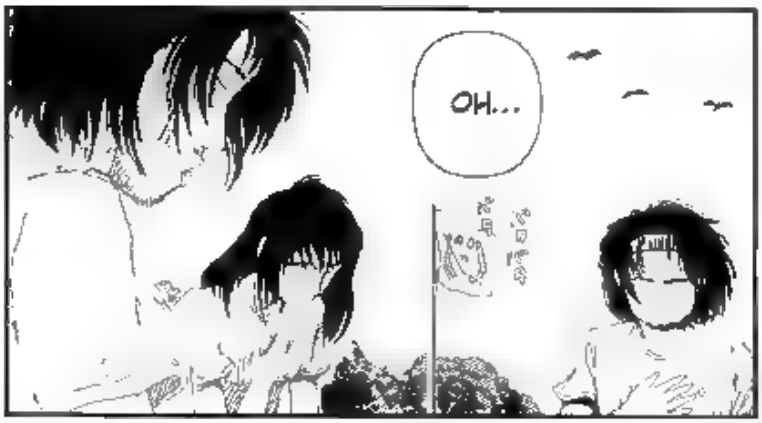
THE "3RD DIVISION CHIEF" APPEARED IN MY "DREAM".


I WAS IN DEEP SLUMBER AND...
...I KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT HE APPEARED, AND I VAGUELY REMEMBER MENTIONING THAT IT WAS A WHILE SINCE WE MET, BUT...
AND ?

9


YOU MUST TELL US EVERYTHING. CONCEALING ANYTHING WILL GO AGAINST THE VERY FOUNDATION OF THE "DESERTED ISLAND PROGRAM".
BUT I AM TELLING THE TRUTH. THAT'S ALL I REMEMBER.
ALL RIGHT, ALRIGHT

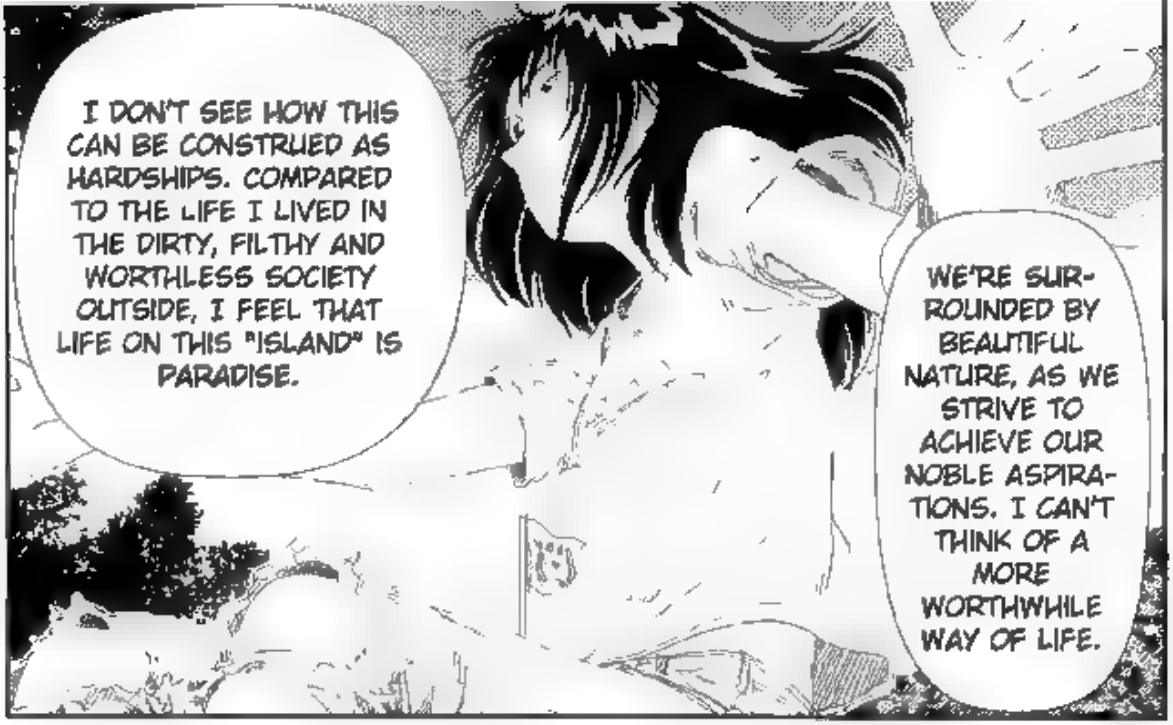
IN MY DREAM.
"MASTER" APPEARED ...


OH...

10

YES?
HARD-SHIPS?

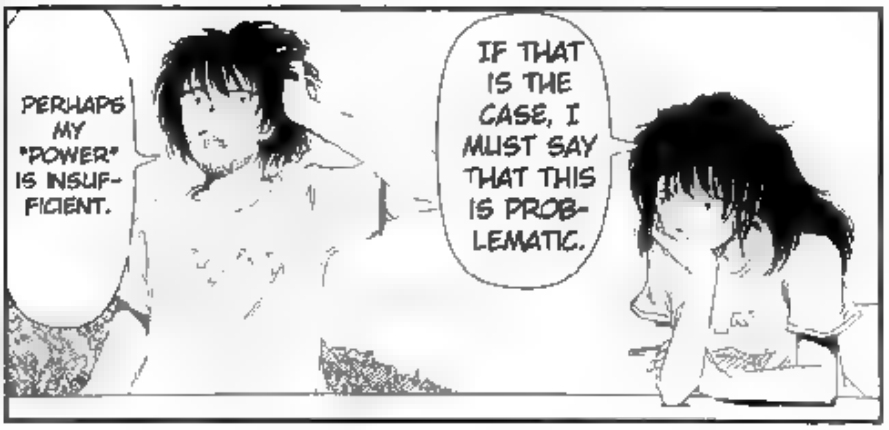
HE SAID: YOU MUST OVERCOME YOUR HARD-SHIPS FOR OUR "COMPA-TRIOTS".
WHAT DID "MASTER" HAVE TO SAY?


I DON'T SEE HOW THIS CAN BE CONSTRUED AS HARDSHIPS. COMPARED TO THE LIFE I LIVED IN THE DIRTY, FILTHY AND WORTHLESS SOCIETY OUTSIDE, I FEEL THAT LIFE ON THIS "ISLAND" IS PARADISE.
WE'RE SURROUNDED BY BEAUTIFUL NATURE, AS WE STRIVE TO ACHIEVE OUR NOBLE ASPIRATIONS. I CAN'T THINK OF A MORE WORTHWHILE WAY OF LIFE.

WELL I THINK IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT ALL 3 OF US ARE STILL "UNACCOMPLISHED NOVICES WHOSE BELIEF IS WEAK AND INSUFFICIENT"

AND THAT THOSE " THOUGHTS" APPEARED IN YOUR "DREAM", DISGUISING ITSELF AS "MASTER'S" WORDS?
"OPERATOR", COULD IT BE THAT YOU FIND THIS "DESERTED ISLAND PROGRAM" TO BE PAINFUL,

BUT IT WAS "MASTER" THAT SPOKE OF HARDSHIPS. IN MY "DREAM". NOT ME.


PERHAPS MY "POWER" IS INSUFFICIENT.
IF THAT IS THE CASE, I MUST SAY THAT THIS IS PROBLEMATIC.

10:00AM
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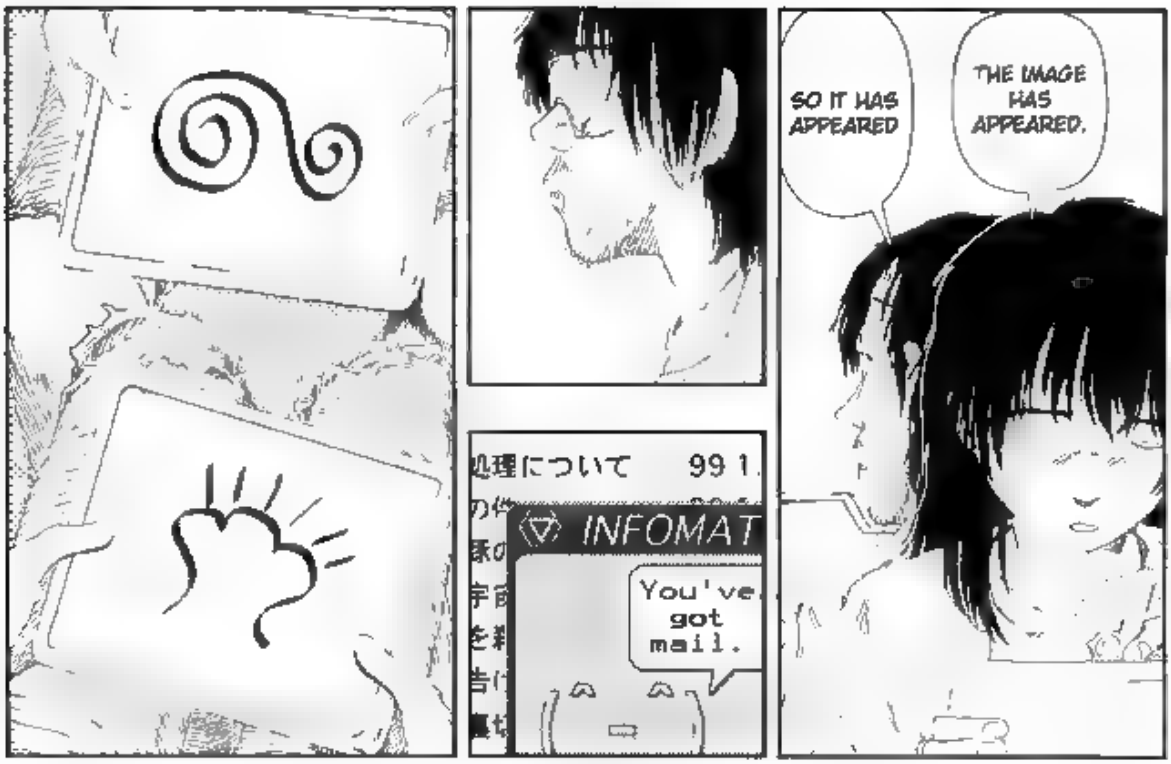
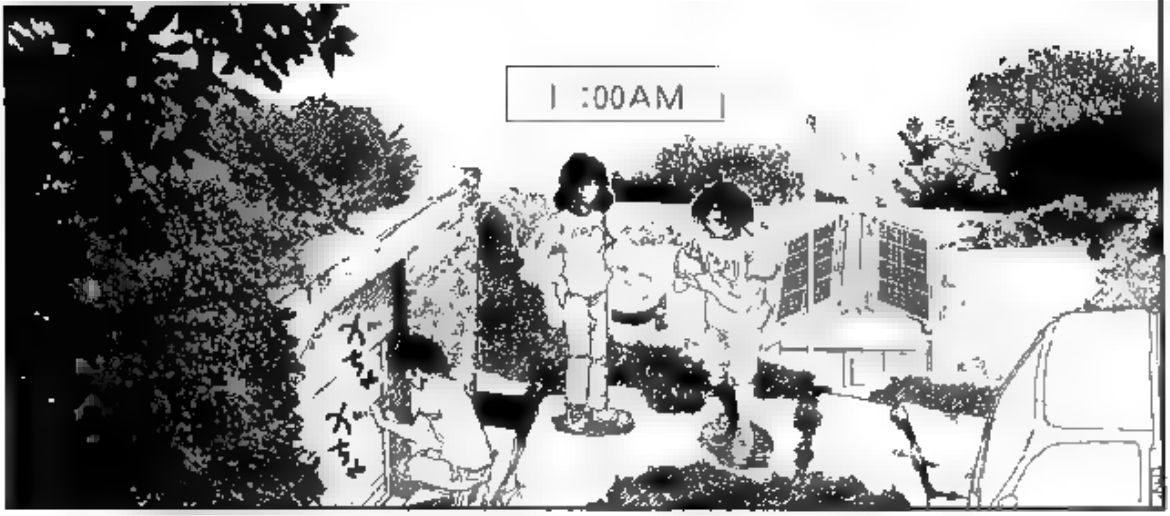

処理について 99 1.
INFOMAT
You've got mail.
SO IT HAS APPEARED
THE IMAGE HAS APPEARED.

Telepathy Experiment
SO WE SHALL MARK IT AS "SUCCESS"
THESE TWO ARE VERY SIMILAR. THEY'RE BOTH ROUND-ISH, AND THE RIGHT PART IS ESPECIALLY...

13

THEN PLEASE RECORD IT TO A CASSETTE TAPE.
WITH A SOUND FILE OF "MASTER'S" "VOICE" ATTACHED.
WE HAVE RECEIVED "INSTRUC-TIONS" FROM THE "1ST DIVISION"

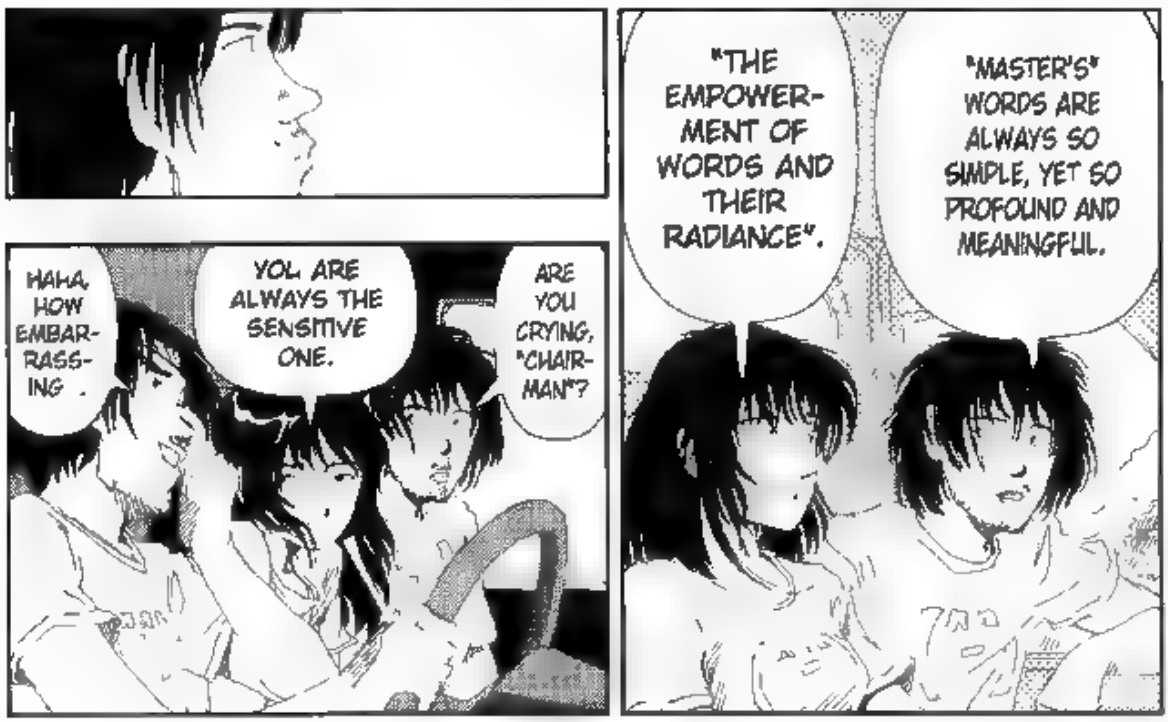


14

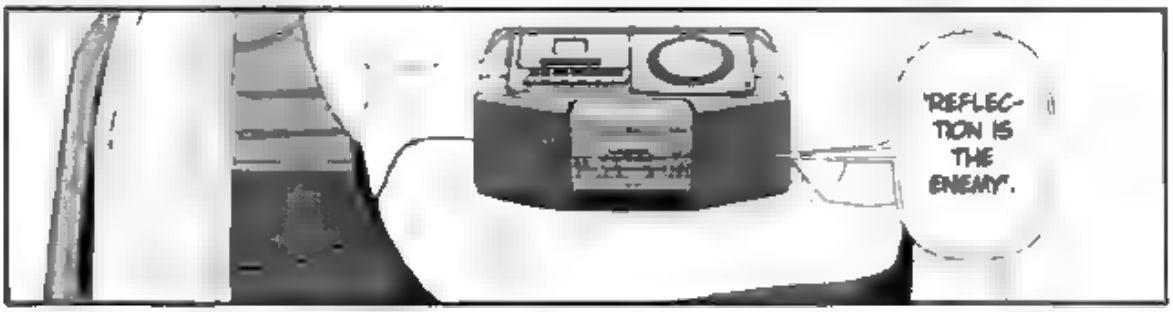
11 30AM
'WHAT YOU CAN SEE, EXISTS. WHAT YOU CANNOT SEE, DOES NOT EXIST"

'REFLECTION IS THE ENEMY'.
'REFLECTION IS THE ENEMY'
'WHAT YOU CAN SEE, EXISTS. WHAT YOU CANNOT SEE, DOES NOT EXIST'.

15


HAHA, HOW EMBARRASSING.
YOU ARE ALWAYS THE SENSITIVE ONE.
ARE YOU CRYING, "CHAIRMAN"?
"THE EMPOWERMENT OF WORDS AND THEIR RADIANCE".
"MASTER'S" WORDS ARE ALWAYS SO SIMPLE, YET SO PROFOUND AND MEANINGFUL.

IDLING HERE IS USELESS. LET US BEGIN "RELOADING".
PERHAPS OUR "REQUEST" WAS YET TO GET THROUGH TO THE TOP?
12:00AM
IT SEEMS THAT OUR FOOD SUPPLY HAS NOT ARRIVED YET


"REFLECTION IS THE ENEMY".

16

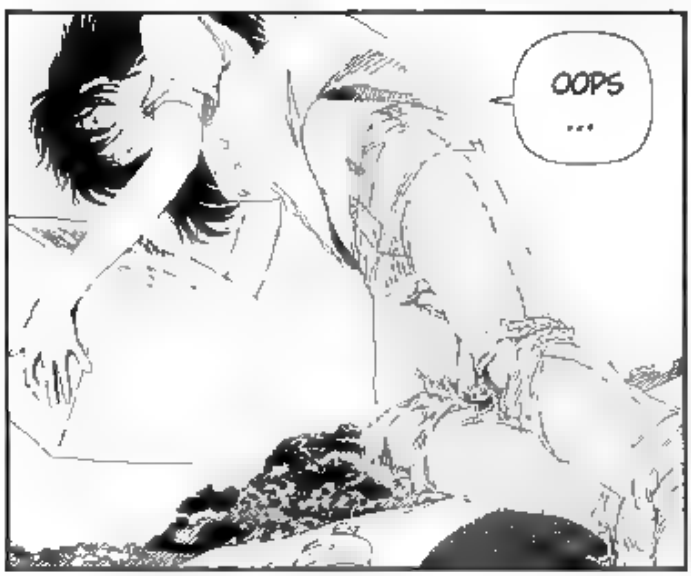
"REFLECTION IS THE ENEMY"

'FORWARDS, BACKWARDS, AND ABOVE'.
'FORWARDS, BACKWARDS, AND ABOVE'.

'TWIST, SCRUTINIZE, AND COUNT'.

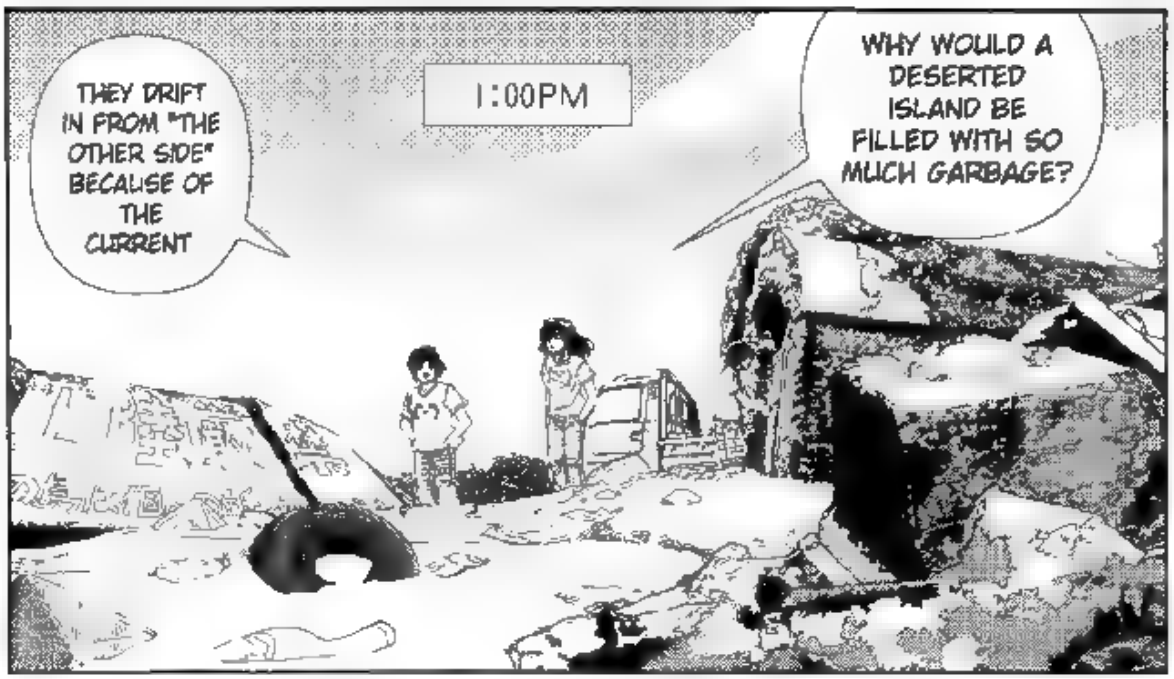
'TWIST, SCRUTINIZE, AND COUNT'.

17


OOPS ...

'REFLECTION IS THE ENEMY'.
LET US WORK HARD FOR OUR 'COMPATRIOTS'.
THANK YOU.

18


1:00PM
THEY DRIFT IN FROM "THE OTHER SIDE" BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT
WHY WOULD A DESERTED ISLAND BE FILLED WITH SO MUCH GARBAGE?

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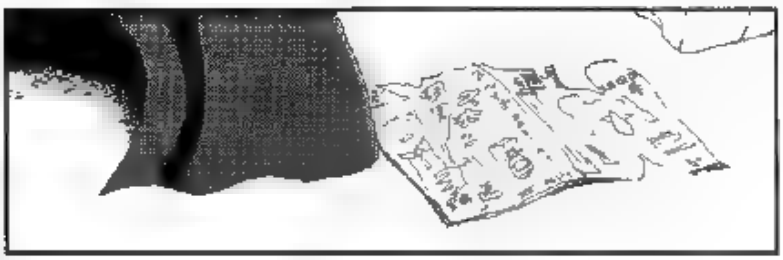
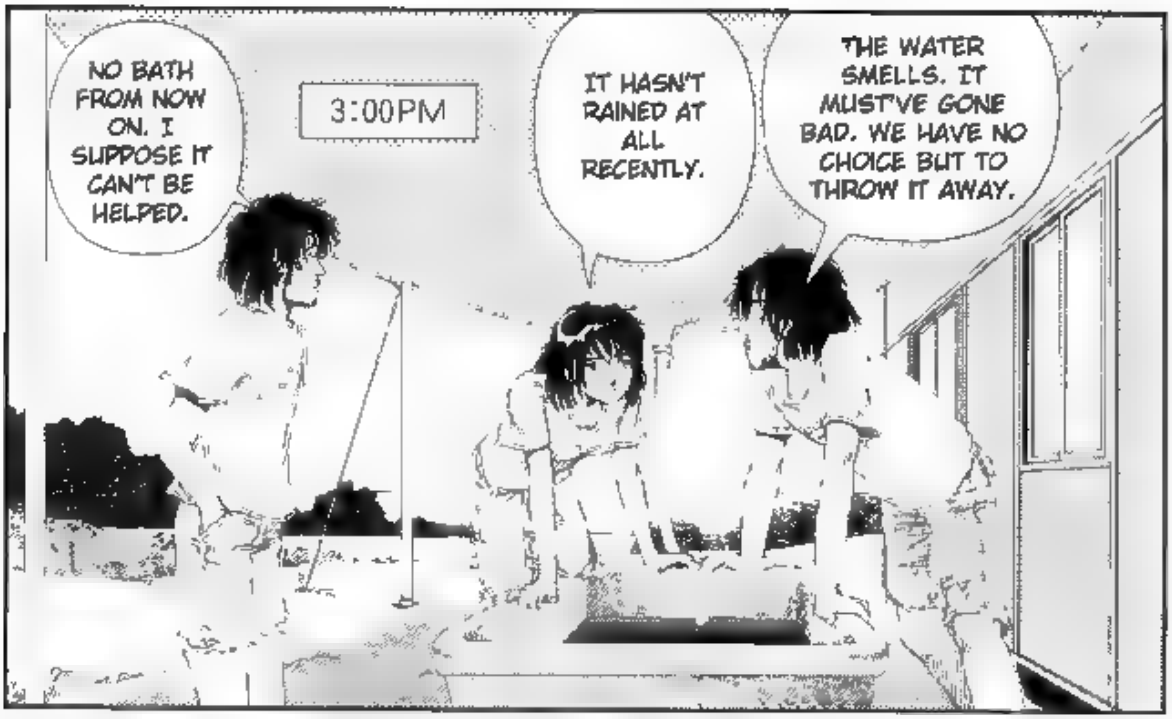
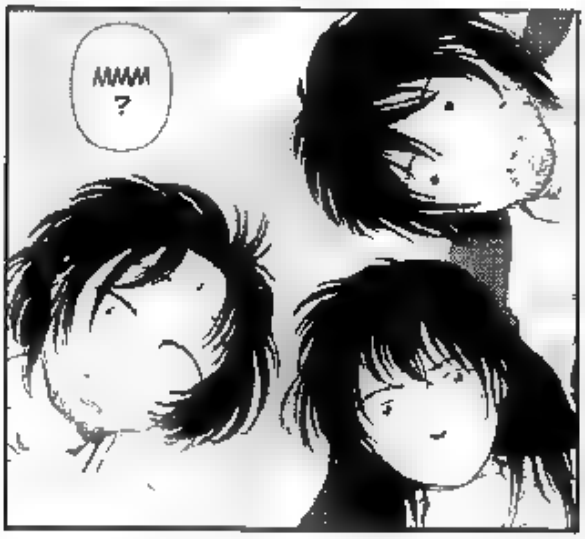
WHAT IS HAPPENING TO "EARTH"?
FOUL MATTER THAT HAS DRIFTED HERE FROM THE "TAINTED LAND"




NO BATH FROM NOW ON. I SUPPOSE IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
3:00PM
IT HASN'T RAINED AT ALL RECENTLY.
THE WATER SMELLS. IT MUST'VE GONE BAD. WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO THROW IT AWAY.


MMM ?

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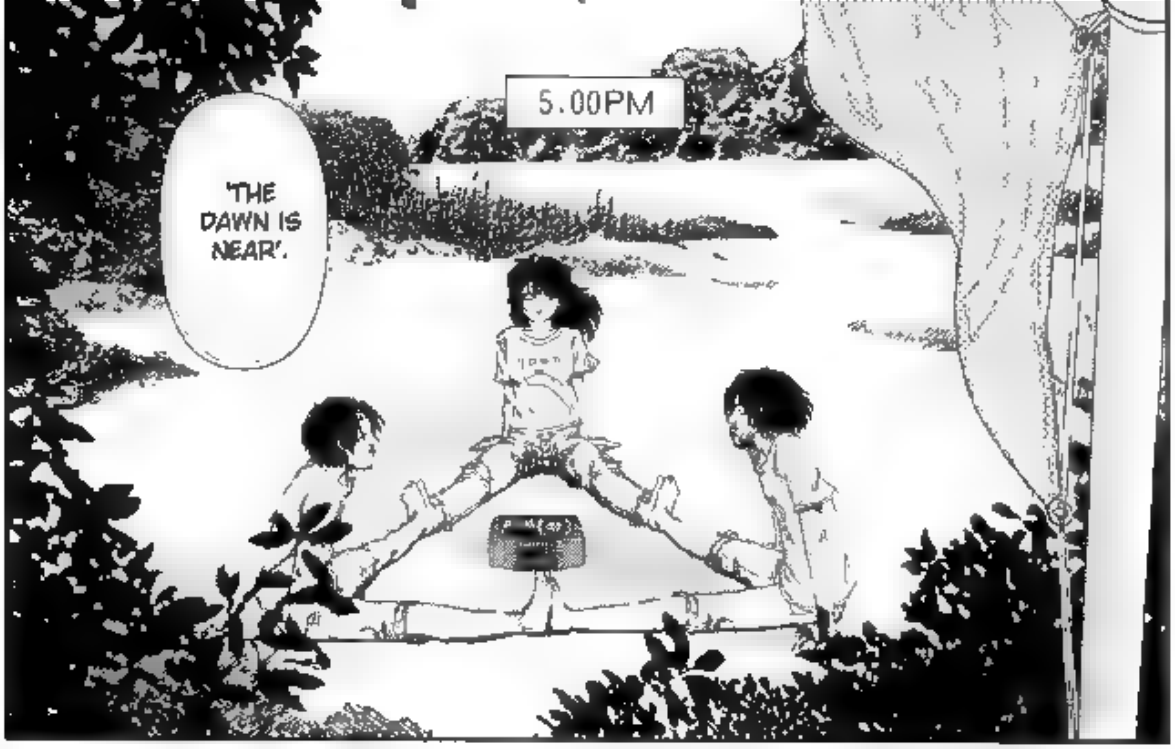
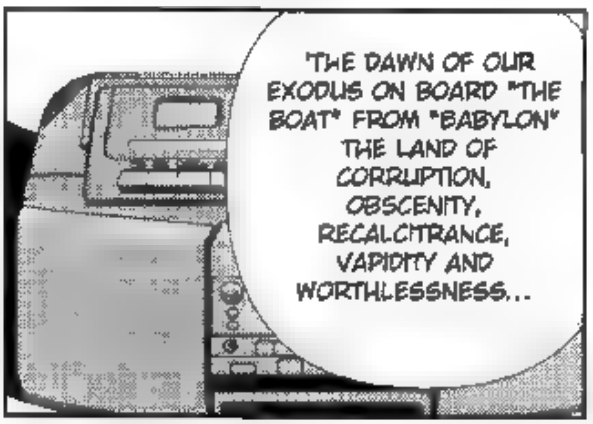
20

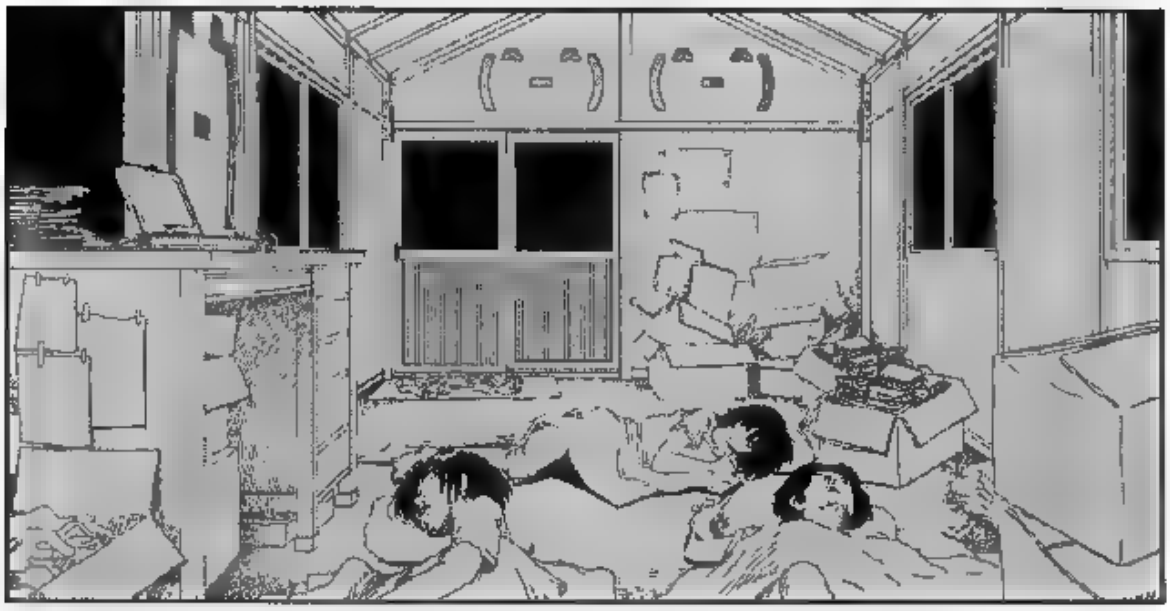
HOW DID THIS TURTLE GET IN THE TUB?


5.00PM
'THE DAWN IS NEAR'.

'THE DAWN IS NEAR'.

TO "THE LAND OF COMFORT" ...'


'THE DAWN OF OUR EXODUS ON BOARD "THE BOAT" FROM "BABYLON" THE LAND OF CORRUPTION, OBSCENITY, RECALCITRANCE, VAPIDITY AND WORTHLESSNESS...



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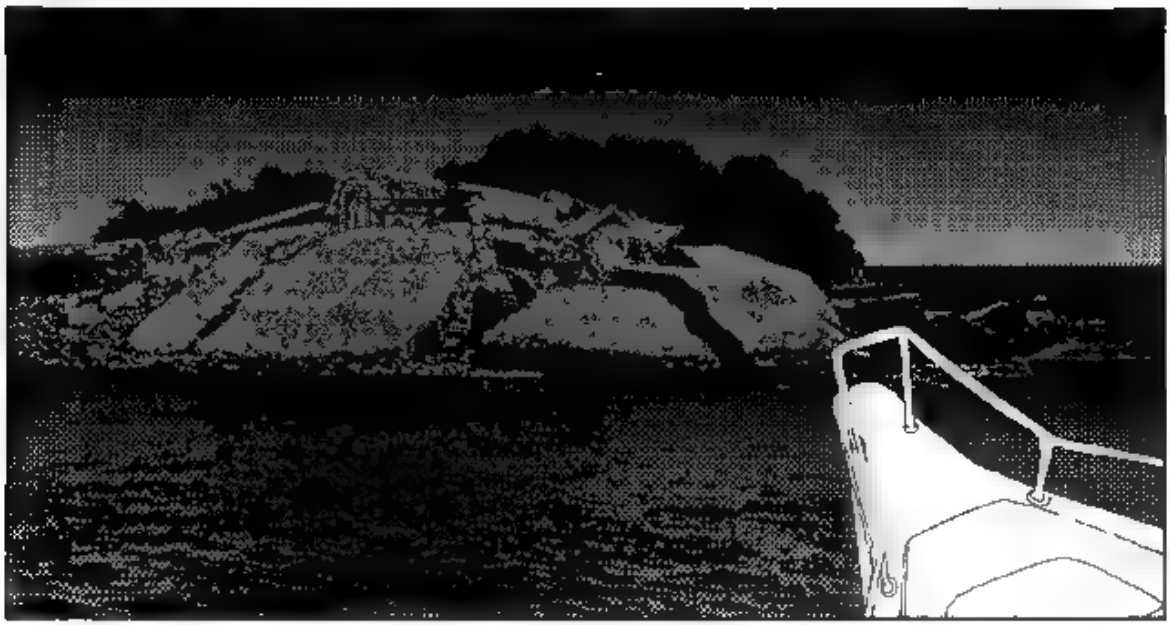
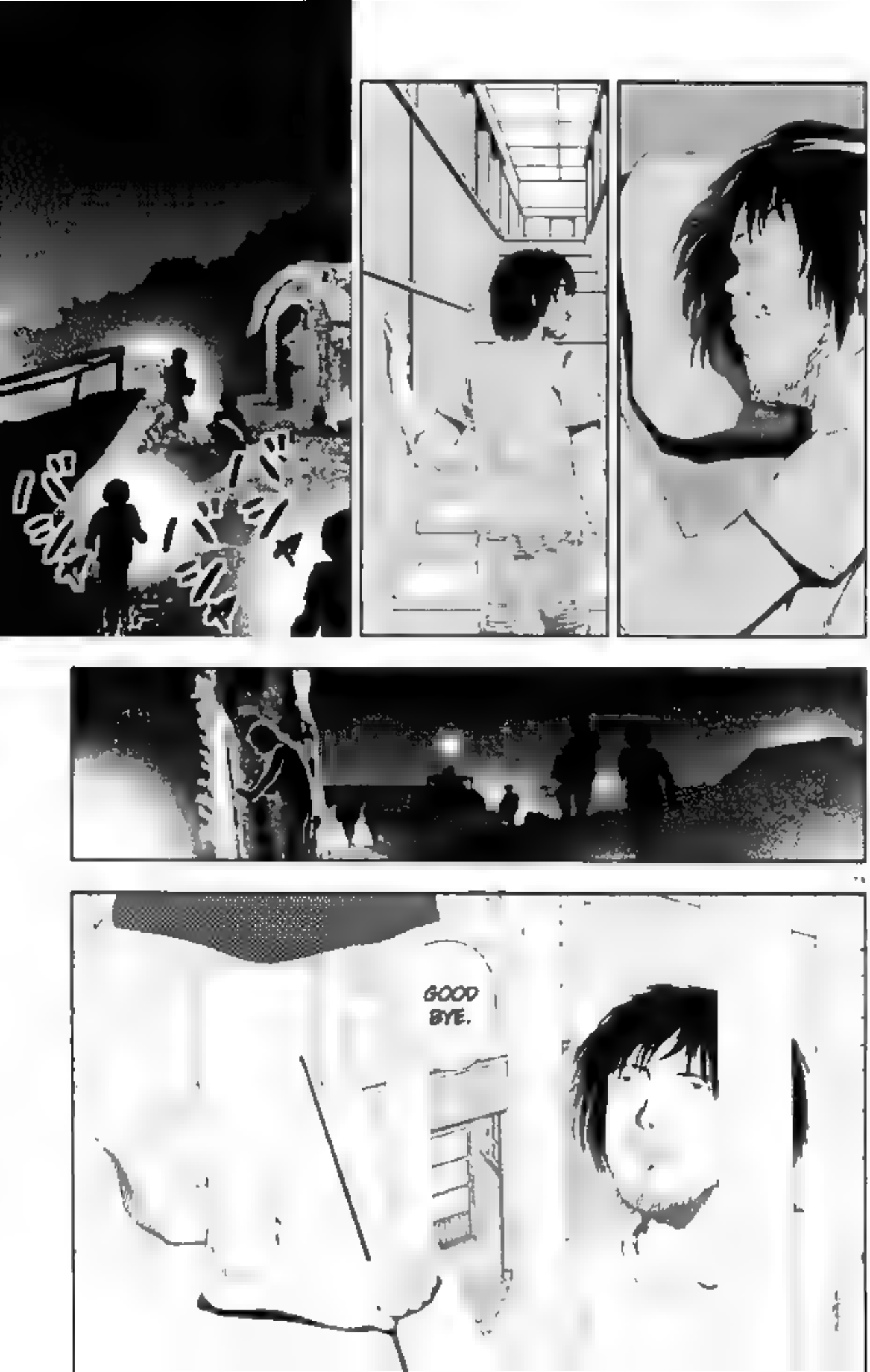
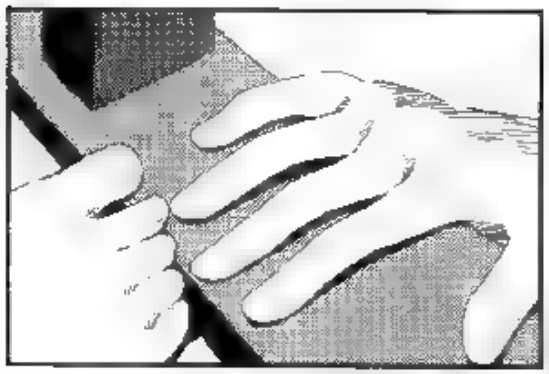



GOOD
BYE.



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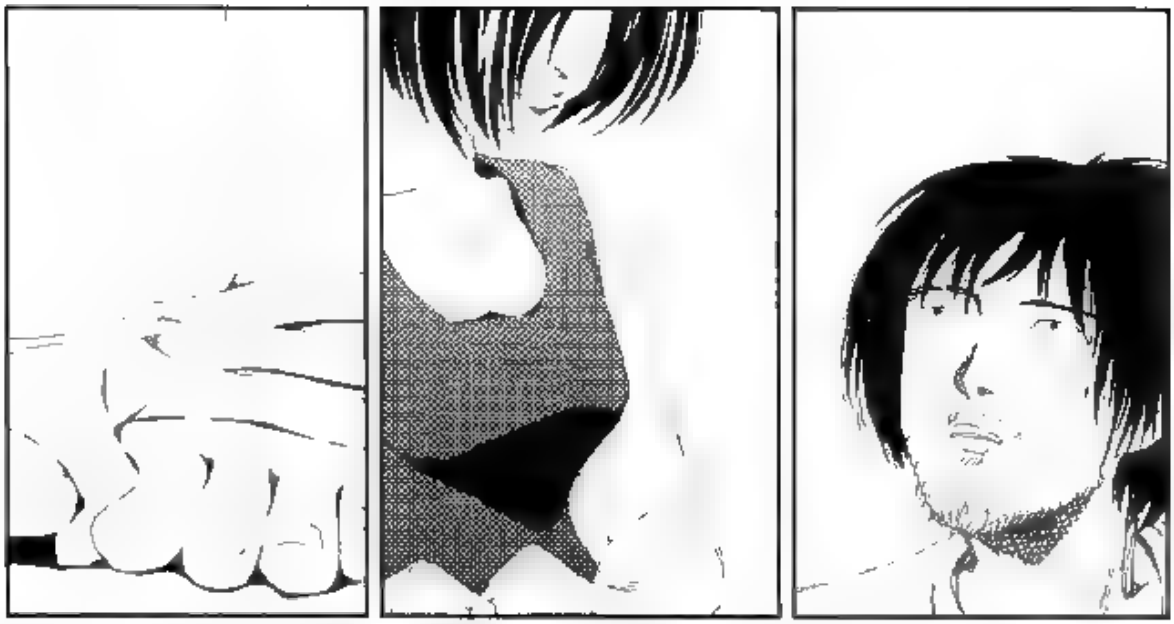

5:00AM

MY FAMILY LIVED IN THE COUNTRY, SO I RENTED A ROOM IN A NEARBY CITY AND COMMUTED TO SCHOOL FROM THERE.
IT WAS UNMISTAK-ABLY A PLACE I HAD BEEN BEFORE. A BOARDING HOUSE I LIVED IN DURING MY HIGH SCHOOL YEARS.
I WAS STANDING ON THE STAIRS OF THE BOARD-ING HOUSE.

CHAPTER 2
HOLE

AND THEN ?
AND THEN ...
WELL I COULDN'T SEE HER FACE, SO I DIDN'T KNOW WHO SHE WAS...
WAS THAT THE END?
WERE YOU TRULY UNAWARE OF WHOM SHE WAS? TOUCHING HER LEG... WAS THAT ALL YOU WERE DOING?
YOU MUST TELL US THE "TRUTH", "OPERATOR". IF YOU DON'T, THERE WOULD BE NO POINT TO THIS.
CONCEALING ANYTHING WILL GO AGAINST THE VERY FOUNDATION OF THE "DESERTED ISLAND PROGRAM".

I...
...
"EJACU-
LATED"
IN MY
DREAM.
I STILL
HAVEN'T QUITE
GOT THE HANG
OF THAT, SO...
WHY DIDN'T
YOU USE
"FORCED
TERMINA-
TION"
BEFORE
YOU "EJAC-
ULATE"?
I'M
SORRY
...
THAT IS
A TRULY
"EVIL
DREAM".
"OPERATOR",
YOU MUST
CRAWL INTO A
"HOLE" AND
STAY THERE
UNTIL
SUNDOWN TO
PURGE YOUR
"EVIL KARMA".
I WILL
ANNOUNCE
THE
"VERDICT"

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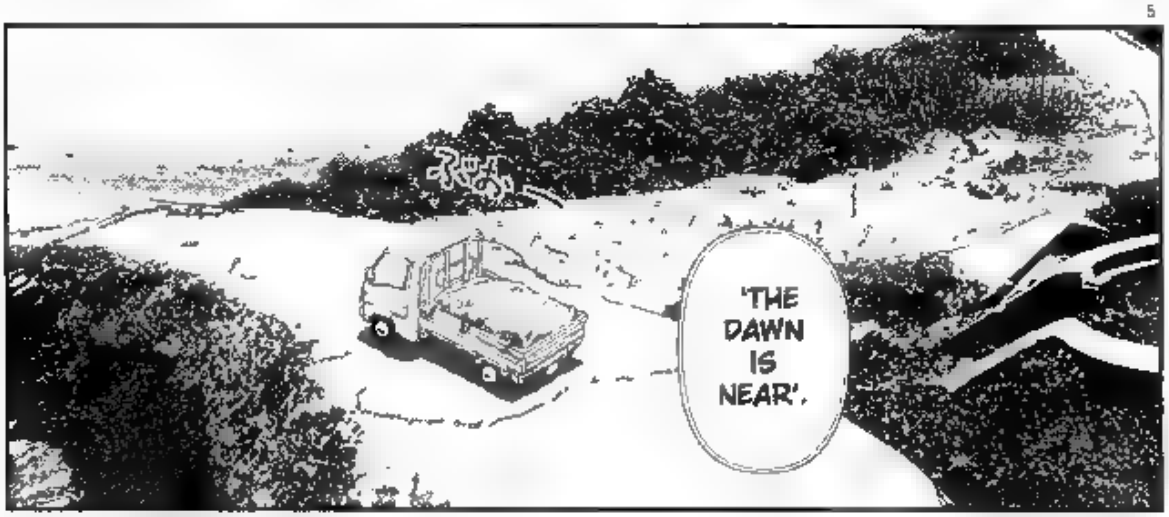
WE HAVE RECEIVED "INSTRUCTIONS". THE "HOLE" WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE EVENING. LET US BEGIN OUR "WORK".
AH, THANK YOU.
LET US WORK HARD FOR OUR "COMPA-TRIOTS"

5


ぶぶぶぶ
'THE DAWN IS NEAR'.

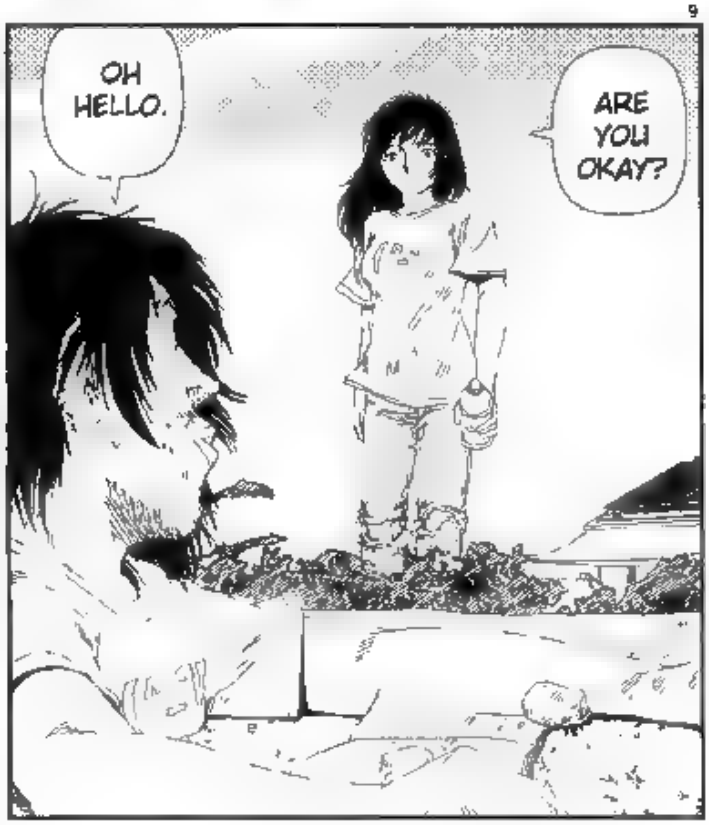
TO "THE LAND OF COMFORT" ...'
'THE DAWN OF OUR EXODUS ON BOARD "THE BOAT" FROM "BABYLON" THE LAND OF CORRUPTION, OBSCENITY, RECALCITRANCE, VAPIDITY AND WORTHLESSNESS ...
THE DAWN IS NEAR.
"THE DAWN IS NEAR".
WE'LL BE ABLE TO BOARD THE "BOAT", WON'T WE?
OF COURSE WE WILL. THAT'S WHAT THE "PROGRAM" IS FOR.
THE DAWN

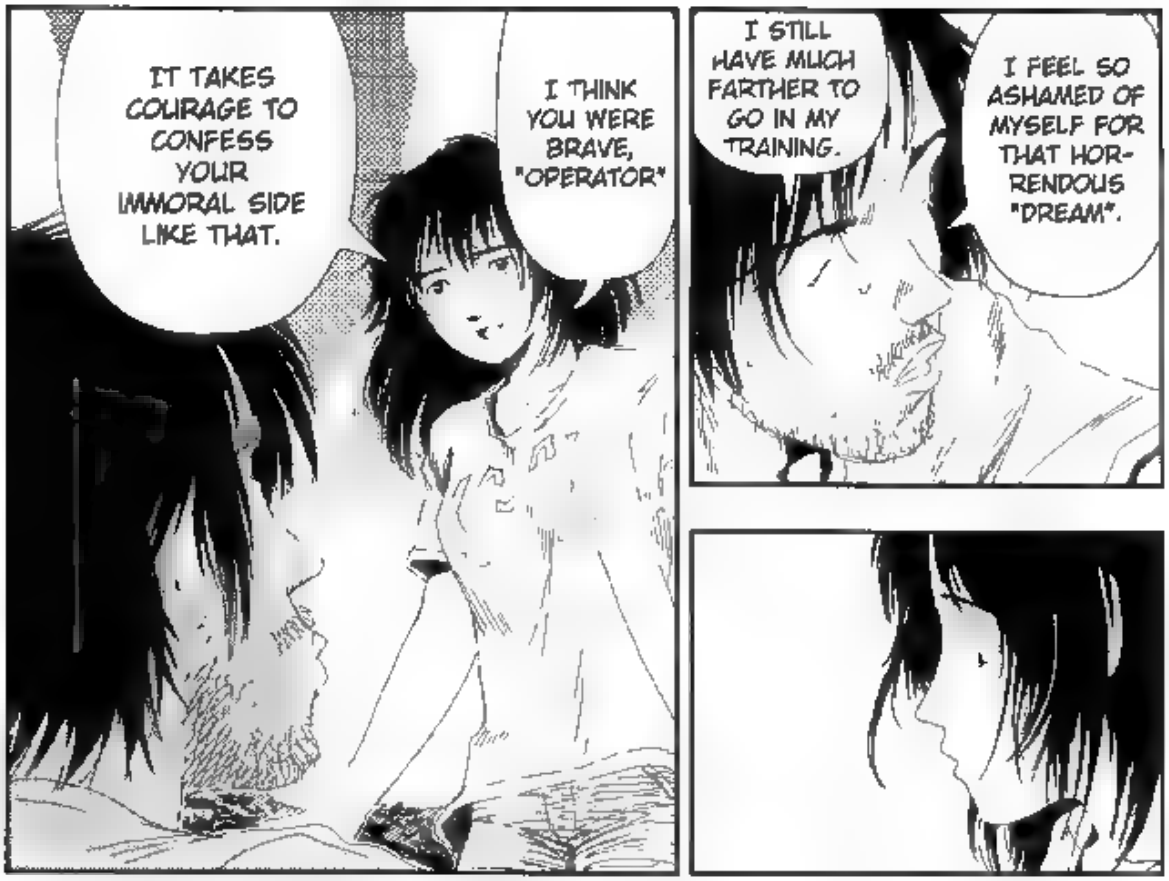
THE TAPE IS ALL STRETCHED AND TANGLED UP.
CAN YOU FIX IT?
WE'LL HAVE TO ASK FOR A NEW TAPE.
.....
THEN PLEASE SUBMIT A "REQUEST" TO THE "1ST DIVISION".
SO THE FOOD SUPPLIES HAVEN'T ARRIVED YET.
THE FOOD SUPPLIES HAVEN'T ARRIVED YET.

WHAT KIND OF "PURPOSE"? OR ARE YOU SAYING THAT THIS FASTING IS A PART OF THE "PROGRAM" TOO? EVEN IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEY SHOULD GO THROUGH PROPER PROCEDURES AND GIVE US ADVANCE WARNING...
PERHAPS THERE IS SOME "PURPOSE" TO THIS?
...LET'S JUST CARRY THESE.
WHAT IS THE "1ST DIVISION" THINKING? WE'RE GOING TO STARVE TO DEATH.
WHICH WILL ONLY LAST FOR ANOTHER FEW DAYS.
SO WE'LL HAVE NOTHING BUT WATER FROM TOMOR-ROW..
*GULP
LET US WORK HARD FOR OUR "COMPATRIOTS".
LET US WORK HARD FOR OUR "COMPATRIOTS".
OH NOTHING ..
IS SOME-THING WRONG ?
8

9

ACTUALLY, THIS IS NICE. I CAN FEEL MY "EVIL KARMA" LEAVING MY BODY THROUGH THE PORES OF MY SKIN.


OH HELLO.
ARE YOU OKAY?


IT TAKES COURAGE TO CONFESS YOUR IMMORAL SIDE LIKE THAT.
I THINK YOU WERE BRAVE, "OPERATOR"
I STILL HAVE MUCH FARTHER TO GO IN MY TRAINING.
I FEEL SO ASHAMED OF MYSELF FOR THAT HORRENDOUS "DREAM".

10

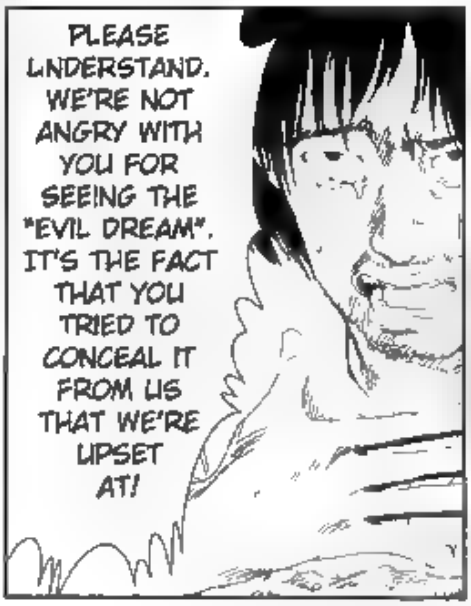
PLEASE DON'T TELL "CHAIRMAN" ABOUT THIS.
WELL I WOULDN'T GO SO FAR AS TO CALL IT AN "EVIL DREAM" ...
WHAT ?
YOU SAW AN "EVIL DREAM" TOO?

WHAT ?
HOW CAN YOU...?

I HEREBY PROPOSE A "MOTION"!! "CHAIRMAN", I MUST PROPOSE AN "EMERGENCY MOTION"!!

I'M SORRY. I'M SO SORRY.

DID WE NOT PLEDGE THAT WE WILL "OPEN OURSELVES TO ONE ANOTHER" ?!
THE FACT THAT YOU KEPT YOUR "DREAM" A SECRET MAKES IT EVEN MORE UNFORGIV-ABLE!!
KEEPING SOME-THING A SECRET FROM THE REST OF THE TEAM IS THE MOST UNFORGIVABLE ACT!


PLEASE UNDERSTAND. WE'RE NOT ANGRY WITH YOU FOR SEEING THE "EVIL DREAM". IT'S THE FACT THAT YOU TRIED TO CONCEAL IT FROM US THAT WE'RE UPSET AT!

HAVE YOU FORGOT-TEN?
HOW COULD YOU? WHAT ABOUT THE "MEANING" OF WHY WE ARE HERE?

I CAN'T REMEMBER. I REALLY CAN'T.
YOU MUST TELL US, "VICE CHAIRMAN". WHAT WAS THE "DREAM" LIKE?

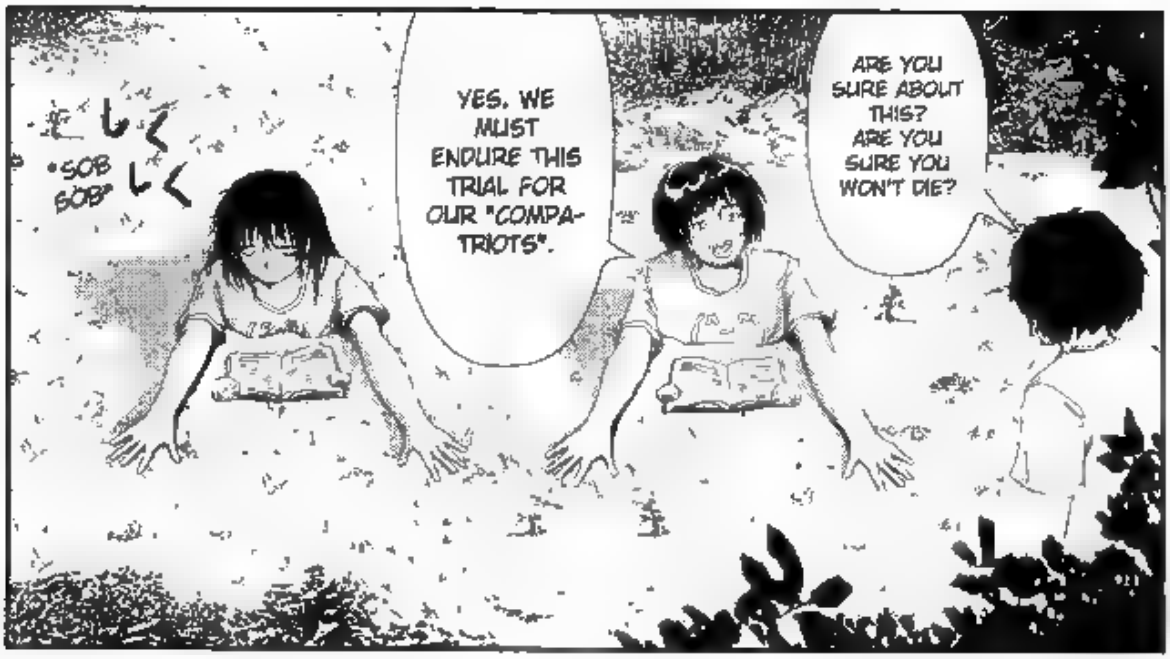
YOU CAN'T CRY YOURSELF OUT OF THIS, "VICE CHAIRMAN" !!

YOU MUST REMEMBER, "VICE CHAIRMAN" !

IT WAS THE "3RD DIVISION CHIEF", WASN'T IT?
DID HE HOLD YOU? DID HE TOUCH YOUR LEGS? OR WAS THERE MORE...
I DON'T ...

13

I CAN'T REMEMBER. I REALLY CAN'T...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"SOB SOB"
YES. WE MUST ENDURE THIS TRIAL FOR OUR "COMPA-TRIOTS".
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS? ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T DIE?

THAT'S THE SPIRIT, "VICE CHAIRMAN".
YES. WE WILL WORK HARD FOR OUR "COM-PATRIOTS".
SOB
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SOB
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, "VICE CHAIRMAN"? WE MUST WORK HARD TO PURGE OURSELVES OF OUR "EVIL KARMA". FOR OUR "COMPATRIOTS".

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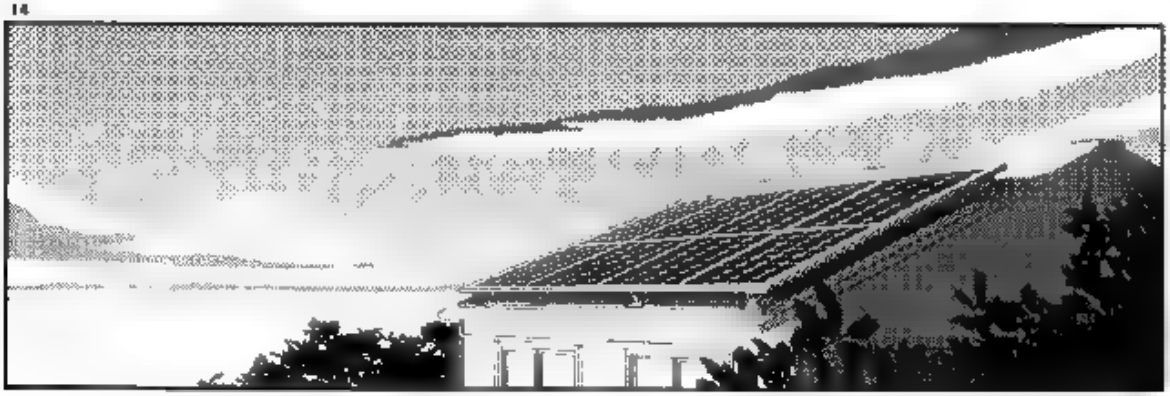


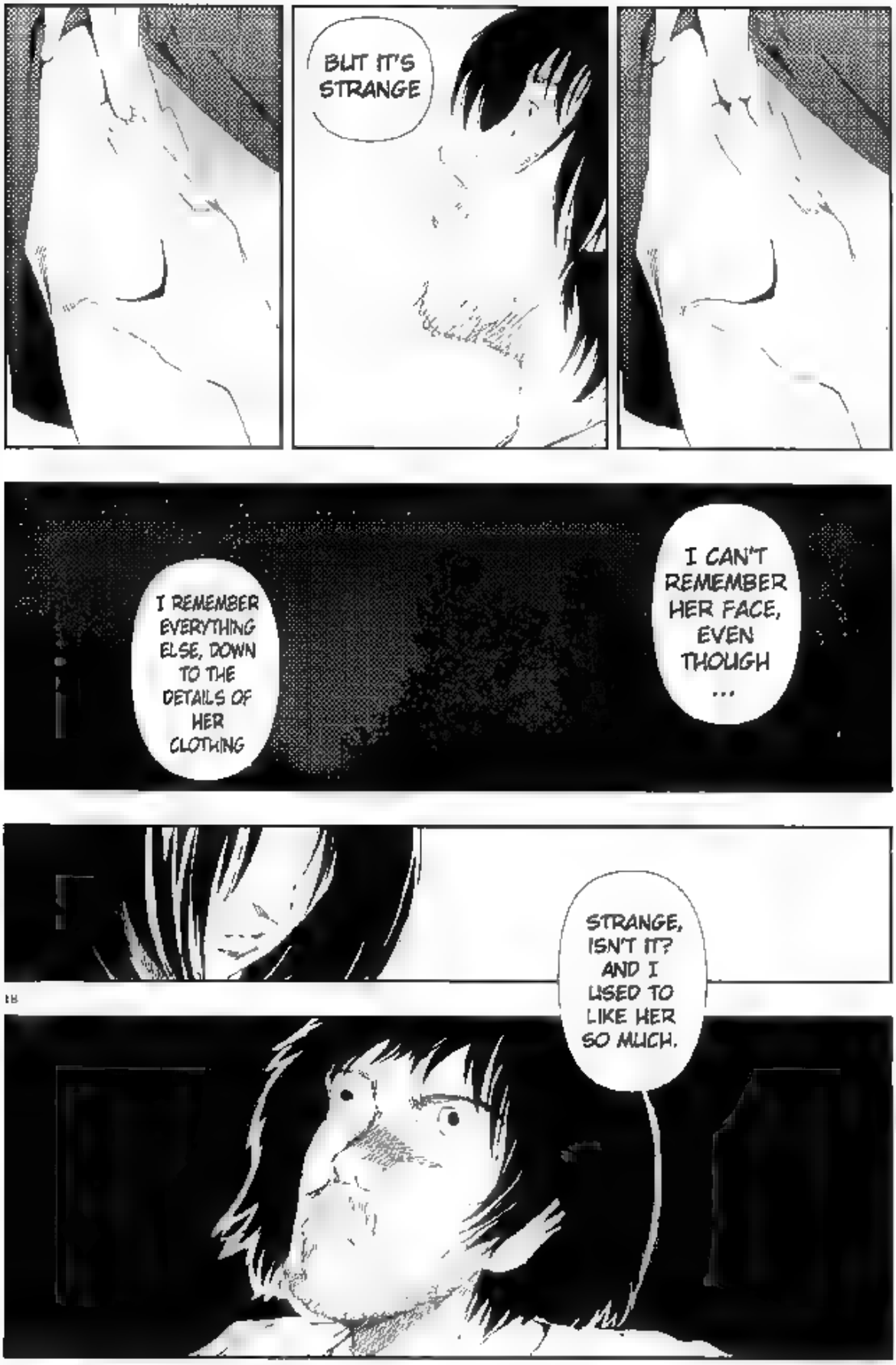
ARE YOU STILL AWAKE, "VICE CHAIRMAN"?
I SUDDENLY REMEMBERED.

15

THAT "DREAM" WAS AN ACTUAL SCENE FROM THE PAST.
I SUDDENLY REMEMBERED WHILE IN THE "HOLE".

I USED TO HAVE A CRUSH ON THE GIRL IN THE BLACK DRESS.
MY HOUSE WAS IN THE COUNTRY, SO I HAD BEEN RENTING A ROOM IN H-CITY.
IT WAS IN AUTUMN OF MY JUNIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL. I WAS CAUGHT DRINKING WITH FRIENDS IN MY ROOM, AND I HAD TO LEAVE THE BOARDING HOUSE.
I MEAN, THIS IS COMPLETELY IN LINE WITH THE AIMS OF THE "PROGRAM", ISN'T IT? "TO PERFECT OUR LIVES BY LETTING OUT ALL THE FILTH HIDDEN WITHIN US".
I WONDER WHY IT CAME BACK TO ME, AFTER HAVING FORGOT ABOUT HER FOR SO LONG. PERHAPS THE "DESERT ISLAND PROGRAM" IS HAVING ITS EFFECT.

I DIDN'T TOUCH HER LEGS. I COULDN'T
IN REALITY,
BUT ...
HAVE YOU FALLEN ASLEEP?
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, MAYBE I SHOULD'VE. MAYBE SHE WOULD'VE JUST SMILED AT ME WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING.
GOOD BYE.

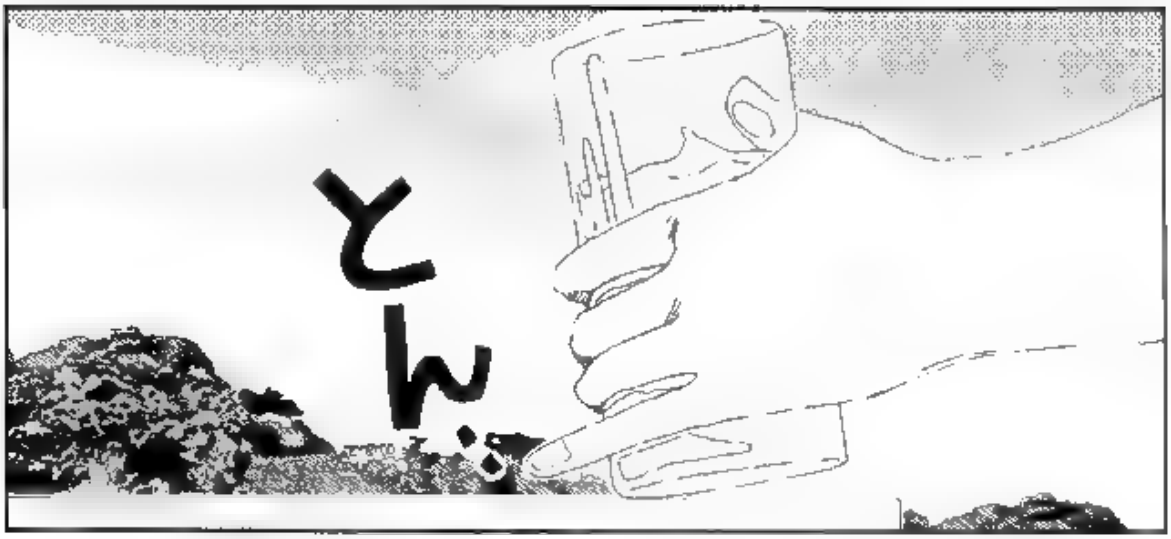

BUT IT'S STRANGE
I REMEMBER EVERYTHING ELSE, DOWN TO THE DETAILS OF HER CLOTHING
I CAN'T REMEMBER HER FACE, EVEN THOUGH ...
STRANGE, ISN'T IT? AND I USED TO LIKE HER SO MUCH.

2D

第3話 FLOUR

2

MAYBE, I'M A LITTLE TIRED FROM BEING IN THE "HOLE" LAST NIGHT.
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU MIGHT HAVE A SLIGHT FEVER, "OPERATOR".
I ASKED HIM IF I COULD HAVE ONE, AND HE SAID 'THERE IS NO RING HERE'. BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS IN A CLASSROOM.
...AND SO HE TOOK OUT A FRIED SHRIMP FROM HIS BAG AND ATE IT AS HE WAS WALKING.
3
I SEE. IT MUST HAVE BEEN A ROUGH NIGHT.
...I DIDN'T EITHER. I COULDN'T GET ANY SLEEP.
I DIDN'T "DREAM" LAST NIGHT.
YOU'RE NEXT, "VICE CHAIRMAN".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DIDN'T WE HAVE THE SAME CONVER-SATION YESTER-DAY...?

WHAT KIND OF "PURPOSE"? THEY SHOULD GO THROUGH PROPER PROCEDURES AND GIVE US ...

PERHAPS THERE IS SOME "PURPOSE" TO THIS?

WHAT IS THE "1ST DIVISION" THINKING? WE'RE GOING TO STARVE TO DEATH.
WE NEED TO CON-SERVE ON OUR WATER SUPPLIES ...
WE'RE FINALLY DOWN TO JUST WATER.

SIGH...
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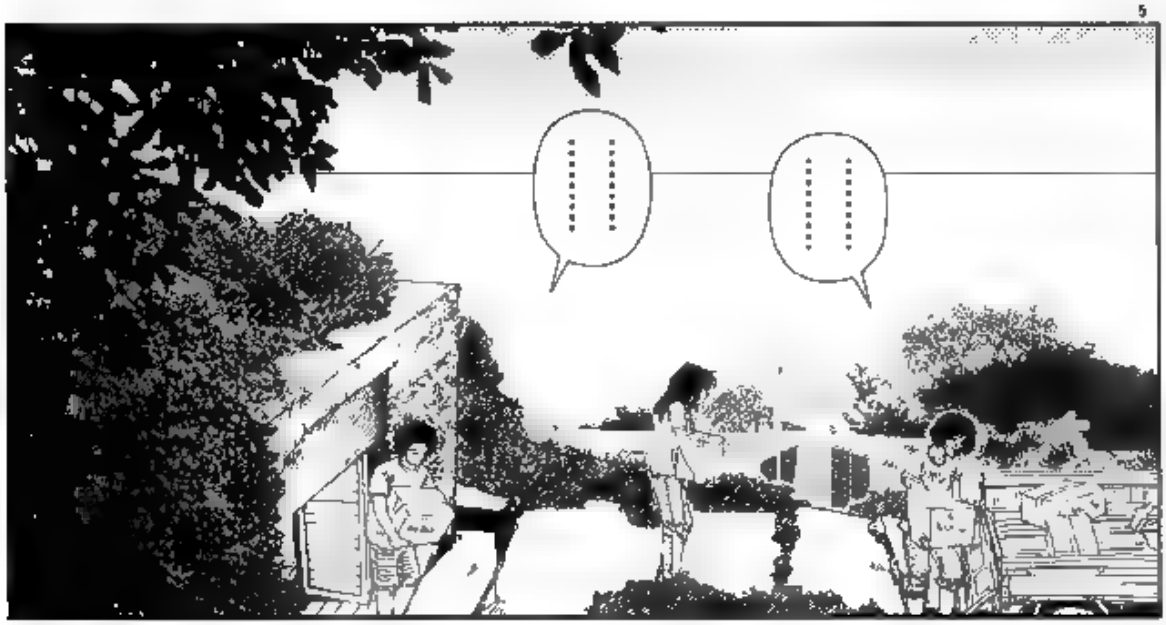
4

AS "CHAIR-MAN", I SAY THAT WE "REST" FOR TODAY UNTIL WE RECEIVE "INSTRUC-TIONS".
WASTING OUR ENERGY AND DAMAGING OUR HEALTH WOULD ONLY SERVE TO UNDERMINE OUR EFFORTS OF WORKING FOR OUR "COMPATRIOTS".

INBOX
題名
INFOMATION
YOU HAVE MAIL.
侵入した部外者に対し
本日の指令
宇宙艦隊の件
99.5.16
99.5.12
99.5.11

WE HAVE RECEIVED "INSTRUCTIONS".

LET US WORK HARD FOR OUR "COMPATRIOTS".
LET US WORK HARD FOR OUR "COMPATRIOTS".



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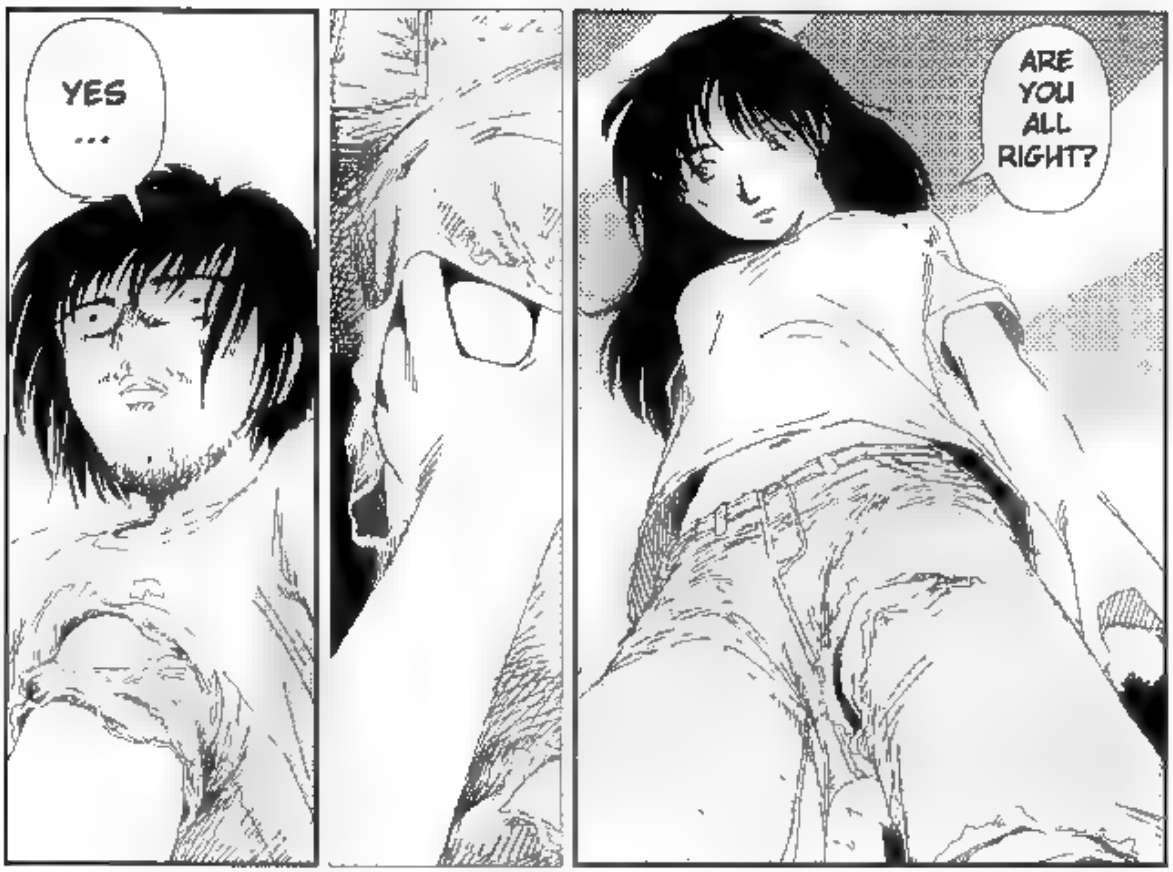

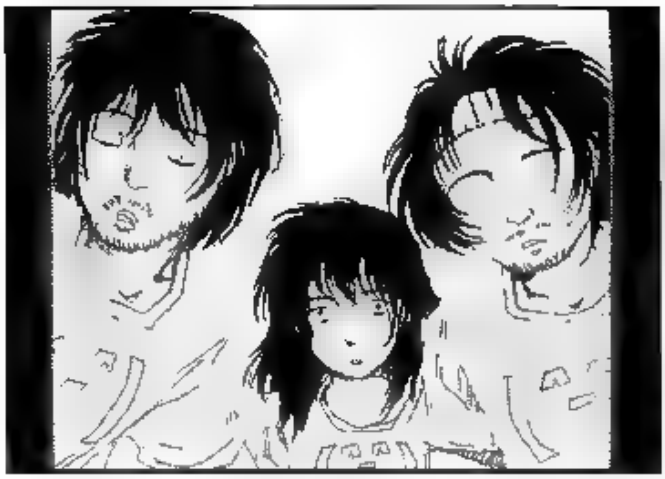

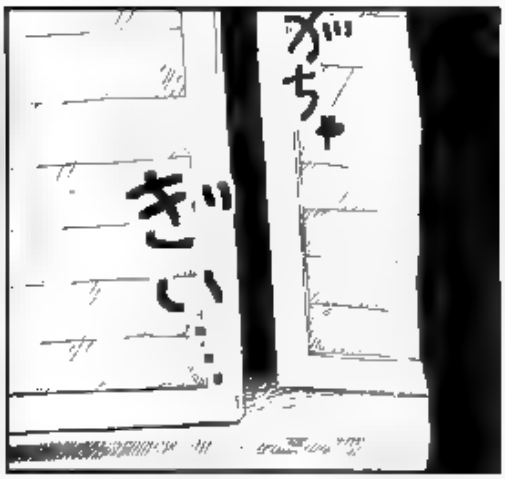

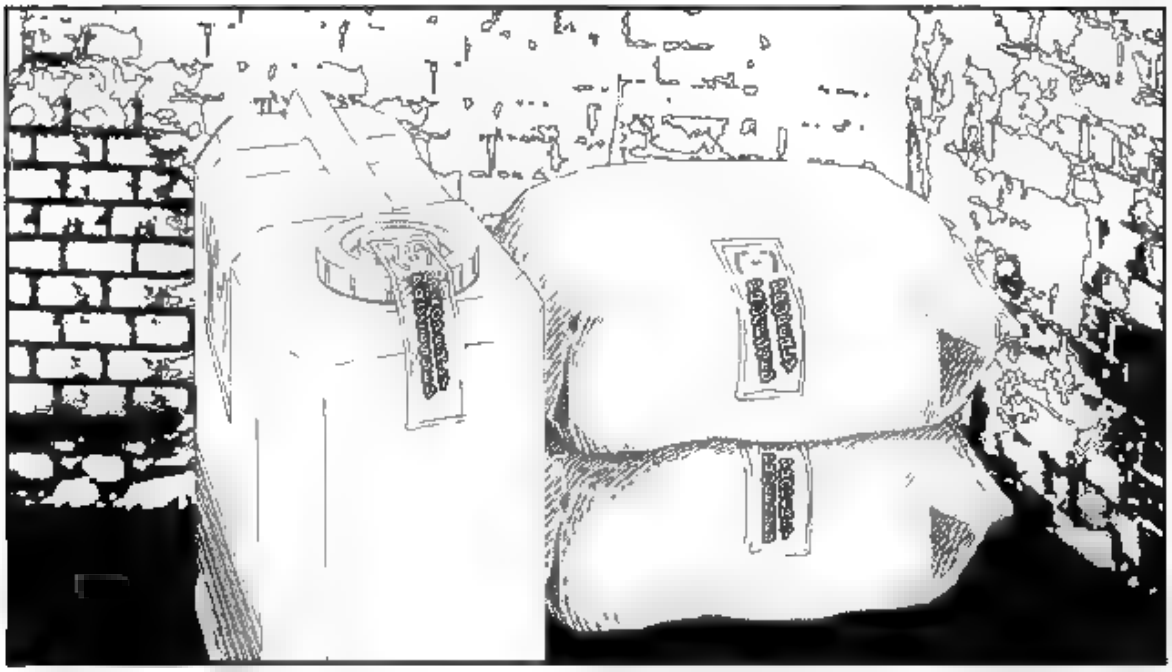

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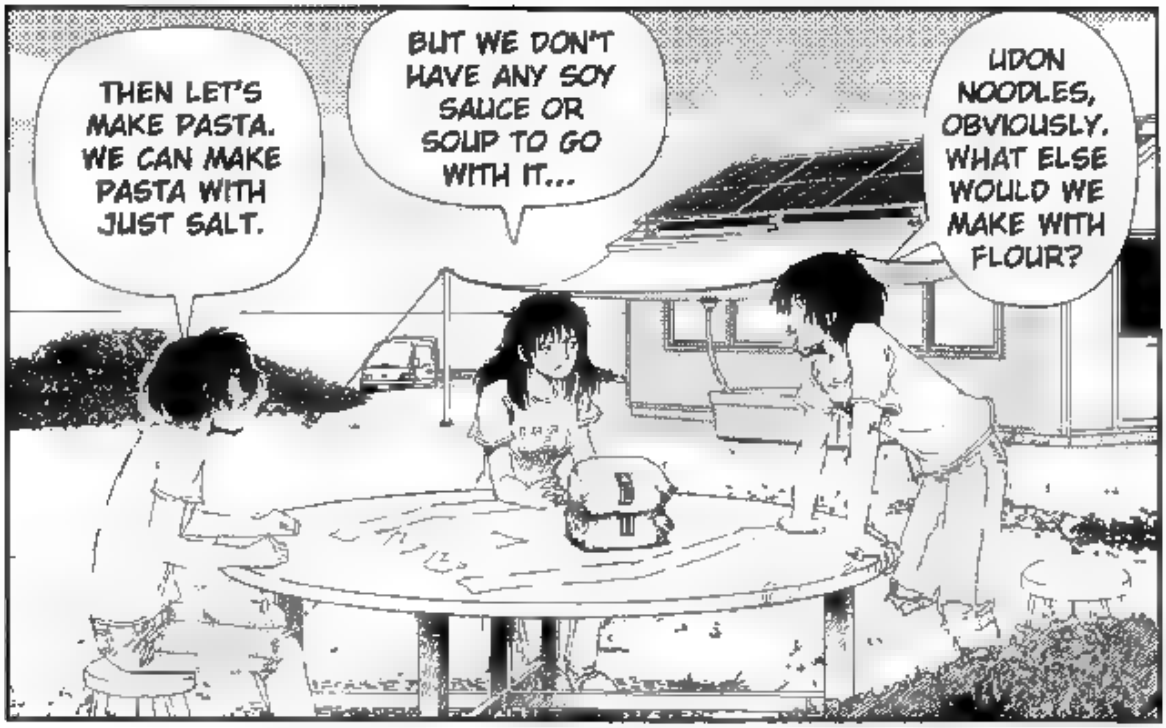
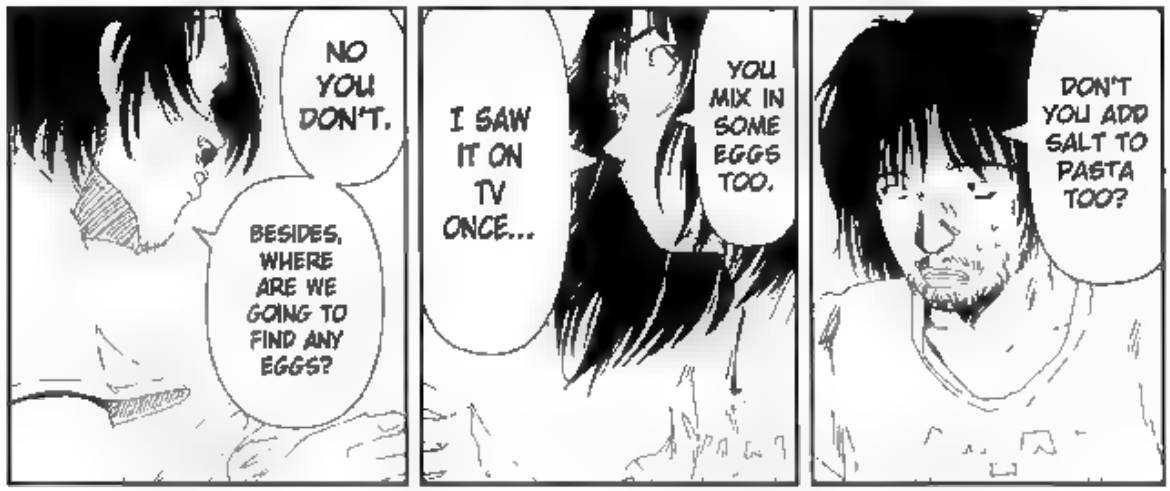
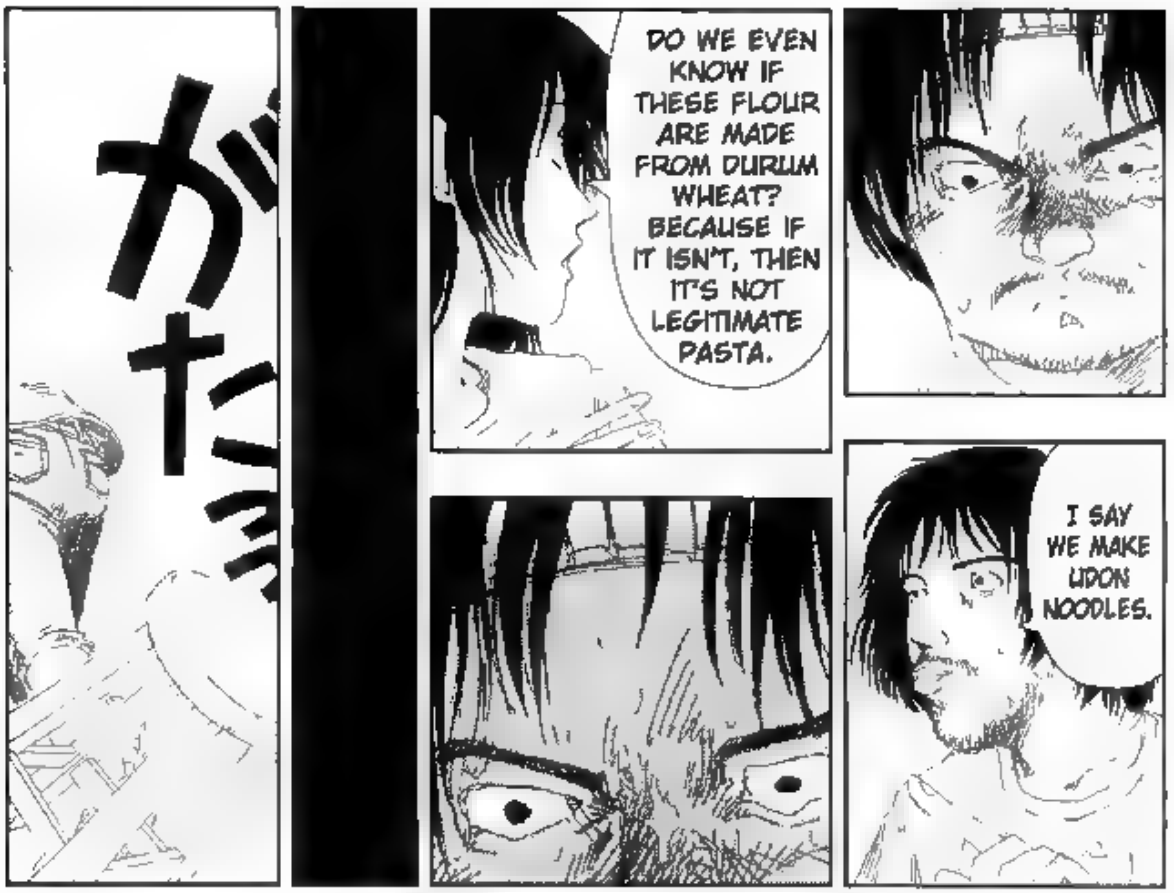

THEN LET'S MAKE PASTA. WE CAN MAKE PASTA WITH JUST SALT.
BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY SOY SAUCE OR SOUP TO GO WITH IT...
UDON NOODLES, OBVIOUSLY. WHAT ELSE WOULD WE MAKE WITH FLOUR?

SALT? IF YOU ADD SALT, YOU HAVE UDON
AMOUNT OF WATER ... AND ADDING SALT...
WHAT'S THE DIF-FERENCE BETWEEN MAKING UDON AND PASTA?

B


NO YOU DON'T.
BESIDES, WHERE ARE WE GOING TO FIND ANY EGGS?
I SAW IT ON TV ONCE...
YOU MIX IN SOME EGGS TOO.
DON'T YOU ADD SALT TO PASTA TOO?


DO WE EVEN KNOW IF THESE FLOUR ARE MADE FROM DURUM WHEAT? BECAUSE IF IT ISN'T, THEN IT'S NOT LEGITIMATE PASTA.
I SAY WE MAKE UDON NOODLES.

9

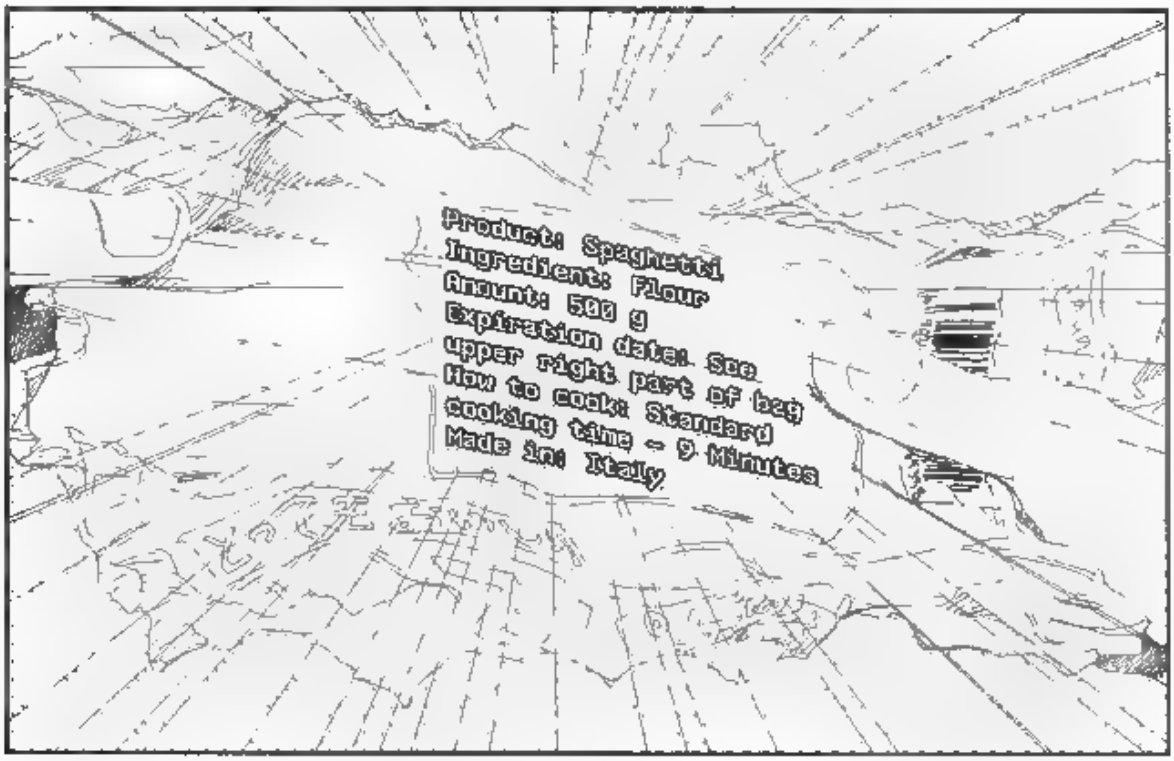
UM, "CHAIR-MAN"?

HANG ON TIGHT !!
"CHAIRMAN", WHAT'S THE MATTER?!

11

FOUND IT!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER ?
I THINK IT WAS AROUND HERE SOME-WHERE..

12


Product: Spaghetti
Ingredient: Flour
Amount: 500 g
Expiration date: See upper right part of bag
How to cook: Standard cooking time - 9 Minutes
Made in: Italy

JUST AS I THOUGHT. FLOUR. ALL YOU NEED IS FLOUR.
HAHAHA, NO SALT, NO EGGS. JUST FLOUR, LIKE I SAID.

BUT WE STILL NEED SALT FOR FLAVOR-ING. AND FOR BOILING THE PASTA.

WE HAVE AN ABUN-DANCE OF SALT HERE.
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WE SHOULD DRY THIS PASTA OUT IN THE SUN. TO PRE-SERVE OUR FOOD.

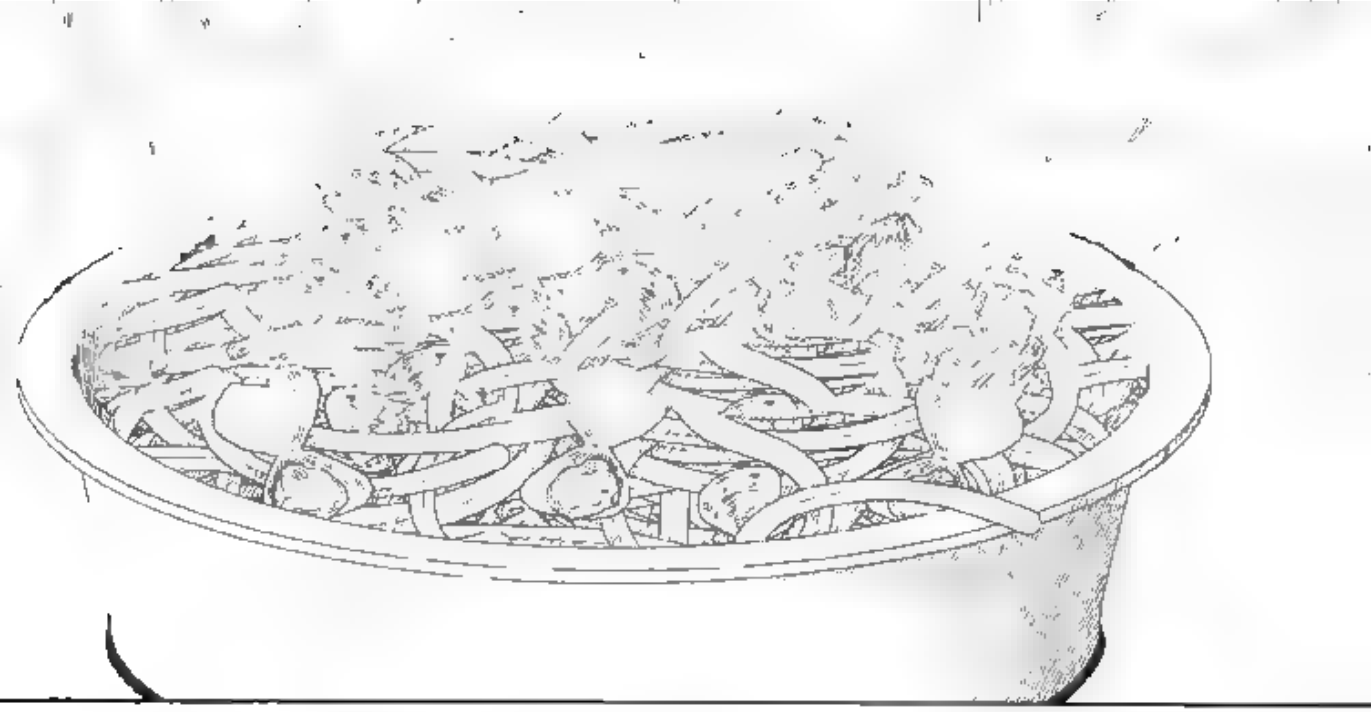
WHAT'S THE MATTER ?

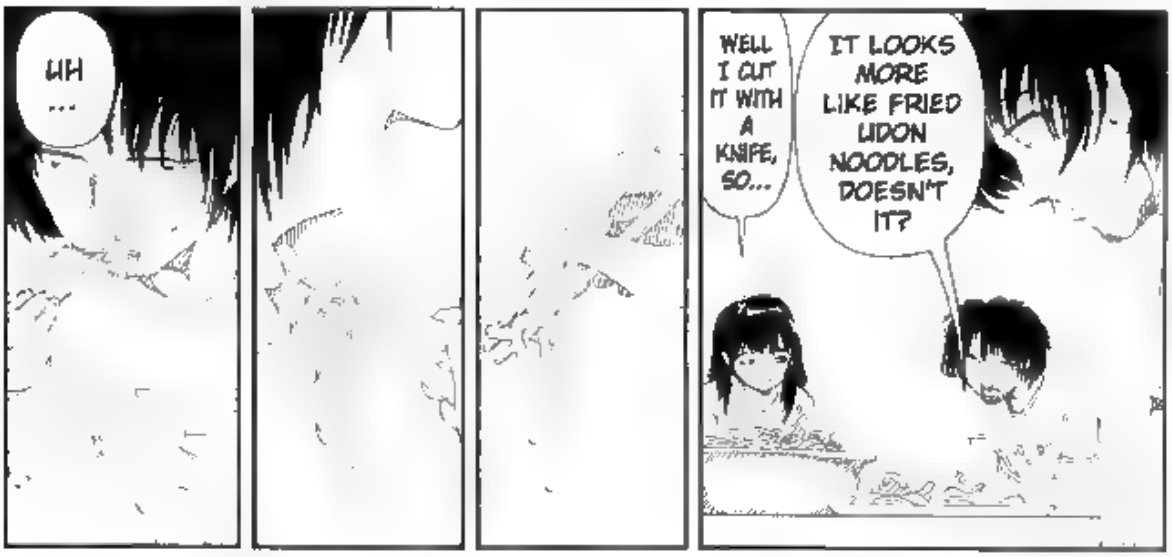
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
AH, YOU'RE BACK, "OPER-ATOR".

...WHY DON'T WE PUT SOME CLAMS IN THE SPA-GHETTI?

14

WOW, VONGOLE BIANCO.




UH ...
WELL I CUT IT WITH A KNIFE, SO...
IT LOOKS MORE LIKE FRIED UDON NOODLES, DOESN'T IT?

15

...IT'S DELI-CIOUS.

IT HAS A SEA-ISH TASTE, WHICH IS RATHER NICE. IT CREATES A TASTY, APPETIZING HARMONY WITH THE CLAMS.
IT'S THE TASTE OF THE 'SEA'. IT'S THE TASTE OF THE 'SEA' ITSELF.
THIS IS DELICIOUS. THIS IS REALLY DELICIOUS.

I SAW SOME MUGWORTS GROWING IN THE HILLS
MAYBE WE SHOULD ADD WILD HERBS TOO. MAKE IT HEALTHIER
LET'S MAKE SEAFOOD PASTA.
THERE ARE ALSO PLENTY OF OCTOPUSES AND SEA URCHINS IN THE SEA.
THERE'S SOME SAND IN THE CLAMS...
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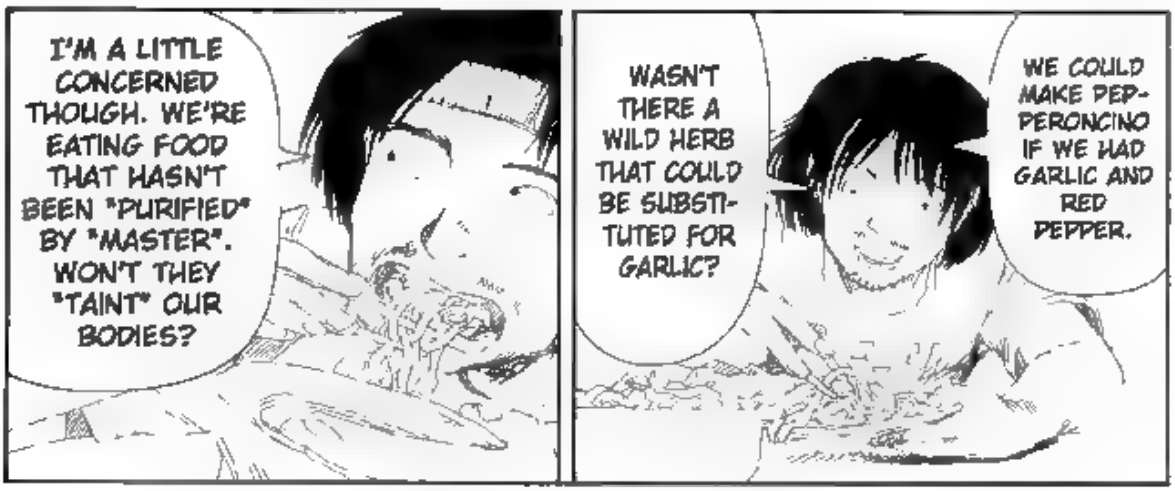
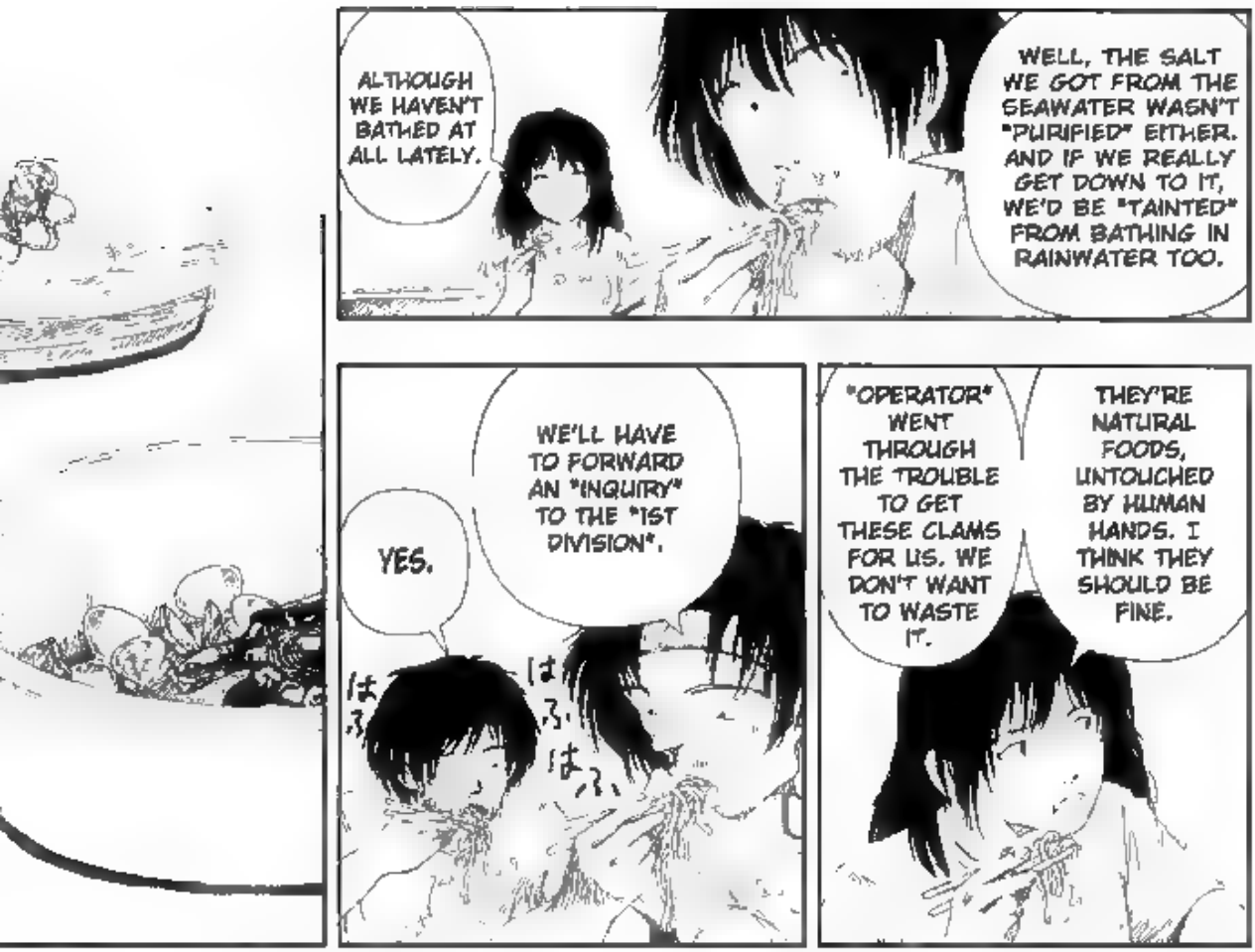

I'M A LITTLE CONCERNED THOUGH. WE'RE EATING FOOD THAT HASN'T BEEN "PURIFIED" BY "MASTER". WON'T THEY "TAINT" OUR BODIES?
WASN'T THERE A WILD HERB THAT COULD BE SUBSTITUTED FOR GARLIC?
WE COULD MAKE PEPPERONCINO IF WE HAD GARLIC AND RED PEPPER.


ALTHOUGH WE HAVEN'T BATHED AT ALL LATELY.
WELL, THE SALT WE GOT FROM THE SEAWATER WASN'T "PURIFIED" EITHER. AND IF WE REALLY GET DOWN TO IT, WE'D BE "TAINTED" FROM BATHING IN RAINWATER TOO.
YES.
WE'LL HAVE TO FORWARD AN "INQUIRY" TO THE "1ST DIVISION".
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"OPERATOR" WENT THROUGH THE TROUBLE TO GET THESE CLAMS FOR US. WE DON'T WANT TO WASTE IT.
THEY'RE NATURAL FOODS, UNTOUCHED BY HUMAN HANDS. I THINK THEY SHOULD BE FINE.

THIS MUST BE WHAT THE "LAND OF COMFORT" FEELS LIKE.
I DON'T THINK I'VE FELT THIS FULFILLED IN A LONG TIME.
A FULL STOMACH AND A COOL, COMFORTABLE BREEZE. WHAT MORE COULD WE ASK FOR?

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HAVE YOU FALLEN ASLEEP ?

... YES.
WE'LL HAVE TO FORWARD AN "INQUIRY" TO THE "1ST DIVISION", WON'T WE?
AND I'M STILL NOT SURE IF IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO EAT "UNPURIFIED" FOOD.
WELL, THE PASTA COMPLETELY THREW OFF OUR AFTERNOON SCHEDULE FOR THE "PROGRAM".

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MMM?

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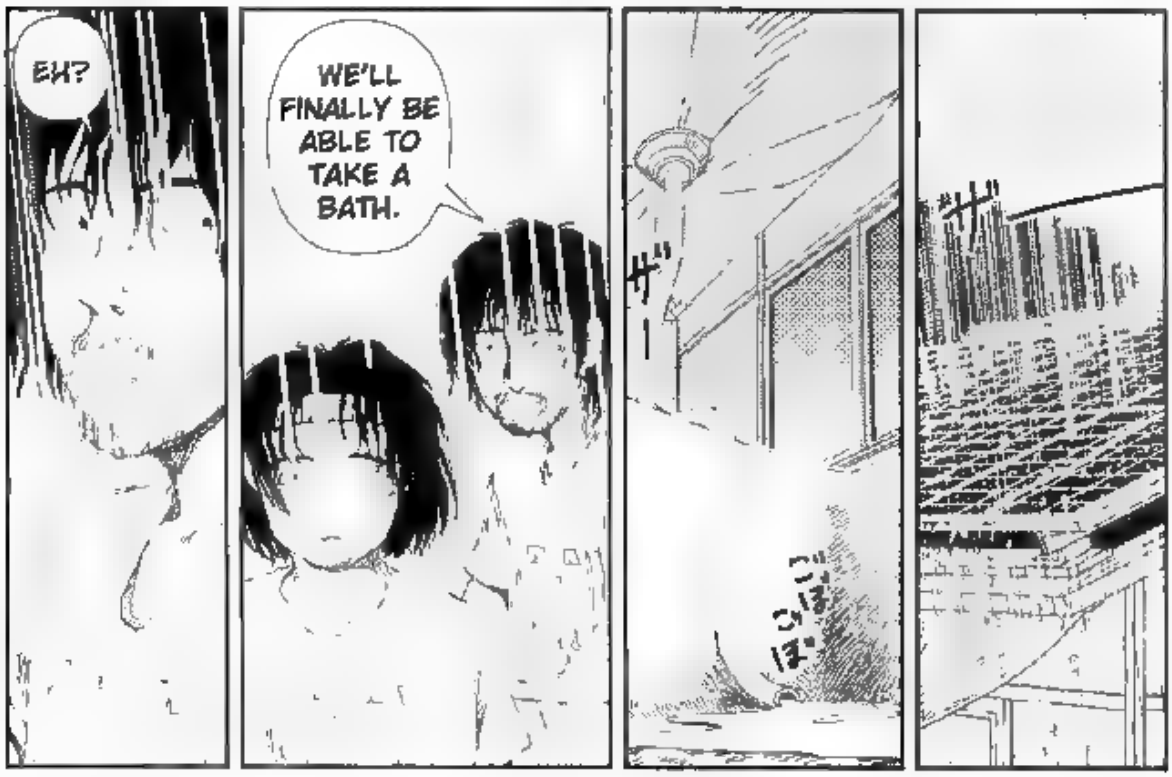

20

HERE, COME ON. EAT IT.
YOU BETTER EAT IT, YOU DIPSHIT.
YOU LITTLE #@%&.
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO FULL OF SHIT, MAN. MOUTHING OFF ABOUT STUFF YOU DON'T KNOW.
YEAH, TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT YOU SAID.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID THAT PEOPLE DIE IF THEY EAT SHIT.
AAAR GH...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS DUDE.
WHAT IS HE, STUPID ?
YUCK.
OH MAN, HE'S REALLY EATING IT.
HE REALLY IS A #@%&.

CHAPTER 4
SOMETHING PURPLE

SO IT WAS A "RECURRENT" DREAM". A REENACT-MENT OF SOMETHING THAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED IN REAL LIFE.
...YES, PRETTY MUCH.

COULDN'T IT BE EXPLAINED LIKE THIS?

THEY PRETEND THAT THEY HAVE "REASON" ON THEIR SIDE.
"THEY" LOOK AT US SUSPI-CIOUSLY, AS IF WE'RE THE ONES WHO ARE MISGUIDED. AND THEY HAVE THE AUDACITY TO TELL US TO COME BACK TO THE "REAL WORLD".

WHAT A FILTHY "WORLD".
THE SCUM THAT MADE YOU EAT IT ARE PROBABLY WALKING AROUND SHAME-LESSLY, ACTING LIKE THEY'RE RESPECTABLE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.

OH .....

...I'M STILL ALIVE.
DO PEOPLE REALLY DIE IF THEY EAT SHIT?

AND I SAW THE "NIGHTMARE" AS A RESULT. DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S POSSIBLE?
WE'VE BEEN EATING "UNPURIFIED" FOOD LATELY, LIKE CLAMS AND SEAWATER. PERHAPS THEY "TAINTED" OUR BODIES,

LIKE THE INDIAN BREAD, CHAPATI.
I TRIED FLATTENING OUT THE DOUGH, AND BAKED IT IN THE OVEN.
THIS IS OUR LAST REMAINING FLOUR.

4

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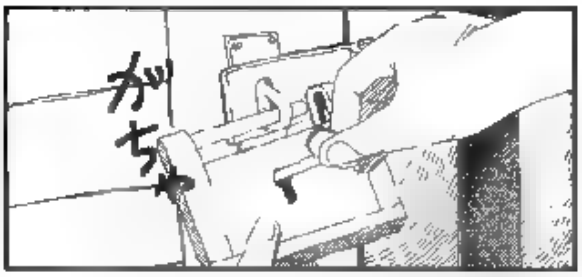
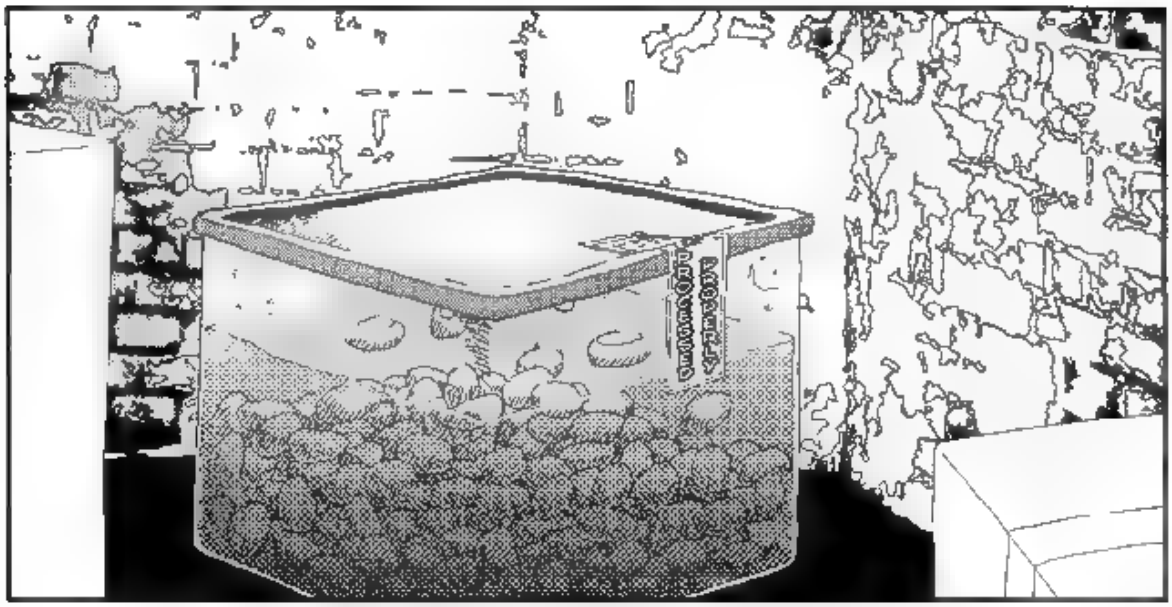
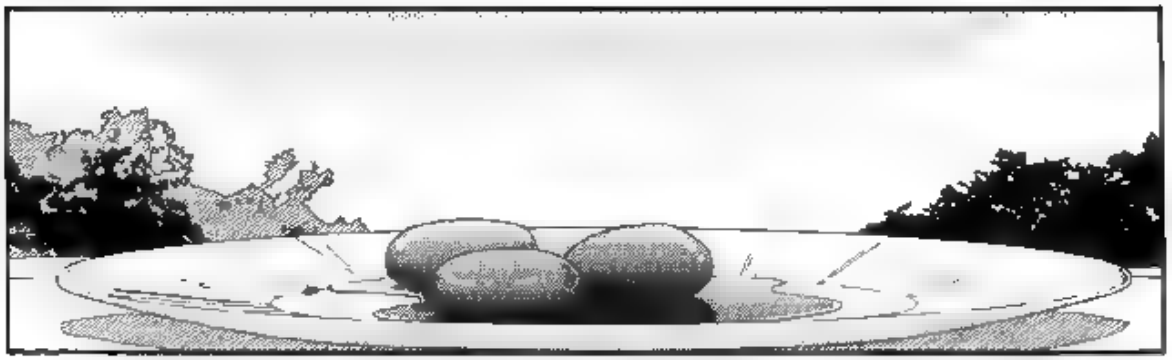
WE'RE DOWN TO JUST WATER AGAIN NOW
NO, THESE ARE GOOD. KIND OF LIKE RICE CRACKERS.
THEY WOULD'VE HAD BETTER TEXTURE IF WE HAD YEAST.





"Too bad we can't show it to you in color



...THEY SMELL HORRI-BLE.
... WHAT IS THIS SMELL?

I THINK THEY HAD FOOD IN OKINAWA OR TAIWAN THAT SMELLS LIKE THIS
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..THEY SMELL LIKE DIRTY WASH-RAGS...
.. WASN'T THERE CERTAIN TYPES OF CHEESE THAT SMELL LIKE THIS?

6

HAVE GONE BAD?
... MAYBE THESE ...

PERHAPS THIS IS A "CONSPIRACY". PERHAPS ONE OF OUR "COMPATRIOTS" WHO CARRIED THIS IS AN AGENT OF THE ENEMY, AND..
BUT IF WE LET OURSELVES FALL ILL BY EATING BAD FOOD, IT WOULD UNDERMINE OUR ABILITIES TO PROCEED WITH THE "DESERTED ISLAND PROGRAM" AND WORK HARD FOR OUR "COMPATRIOTS".
ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT THE "1ST DIVISION" SENT US BAD FOOD?
I ACTUALLY THINK THEY HAVE. I MEAN THEY SMELL SO ...
OH NO, I.
ARE YOU CASTING DOUBT AT OUR "COMPATRIOTS"?
THEY MAY SEEM BAD OSTENSIBLY, BUT I DON'T THINK THEY ARE THEY WERE MEANT TO SMELL LIKE THIS. I'M CERTAIN OF IT.
THESE FOODS HAVE BEEN INJECTED WITH "MASTER'S" "POWER" THERE'S NO WAY THEY COULD'VE GONE BAD.
MMM ...
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MUNCH MUNCH

HUH, HUH, HUH, HUH, HUH, HUH...

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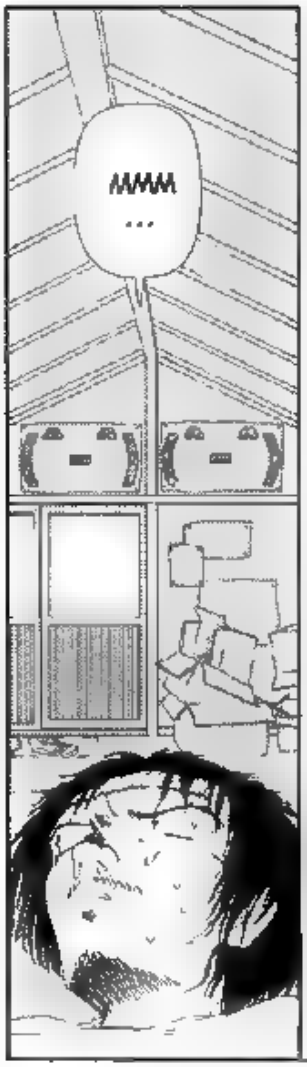
...IT SEEMS THAT YOUR THEORY WAS RIGHT. PERHAPS AN "ENEMY SPY" HAD INFILTRATED THE "TRANSPORT TEAM"...
...WE MUST SEND AN EMAIL TO THE "1ST DIVISION" INFORMING THEM OF THIS.

THE DREAM I SAW LAST NIGHT MUST HAVE BEEN A "PROPHETICAL DREAM". HOW FOOLISH OF ME TO NOT REALIZE IT.
ARE YOU OKAY?

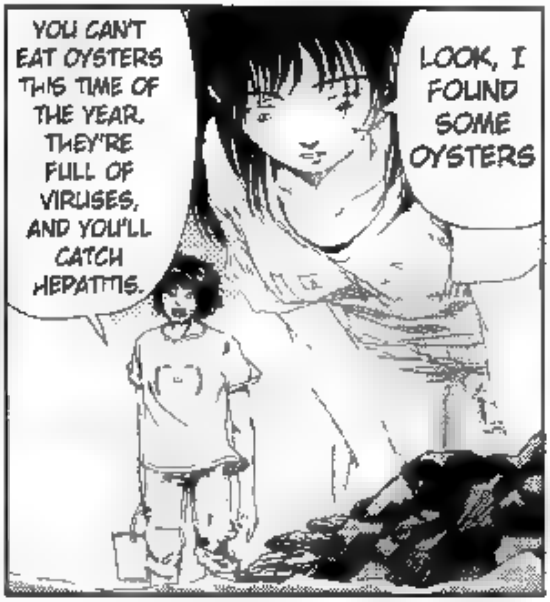
"ENEMY"...
DO YOU THINK THIS IS THE DOING OF THE "ENEMY"?

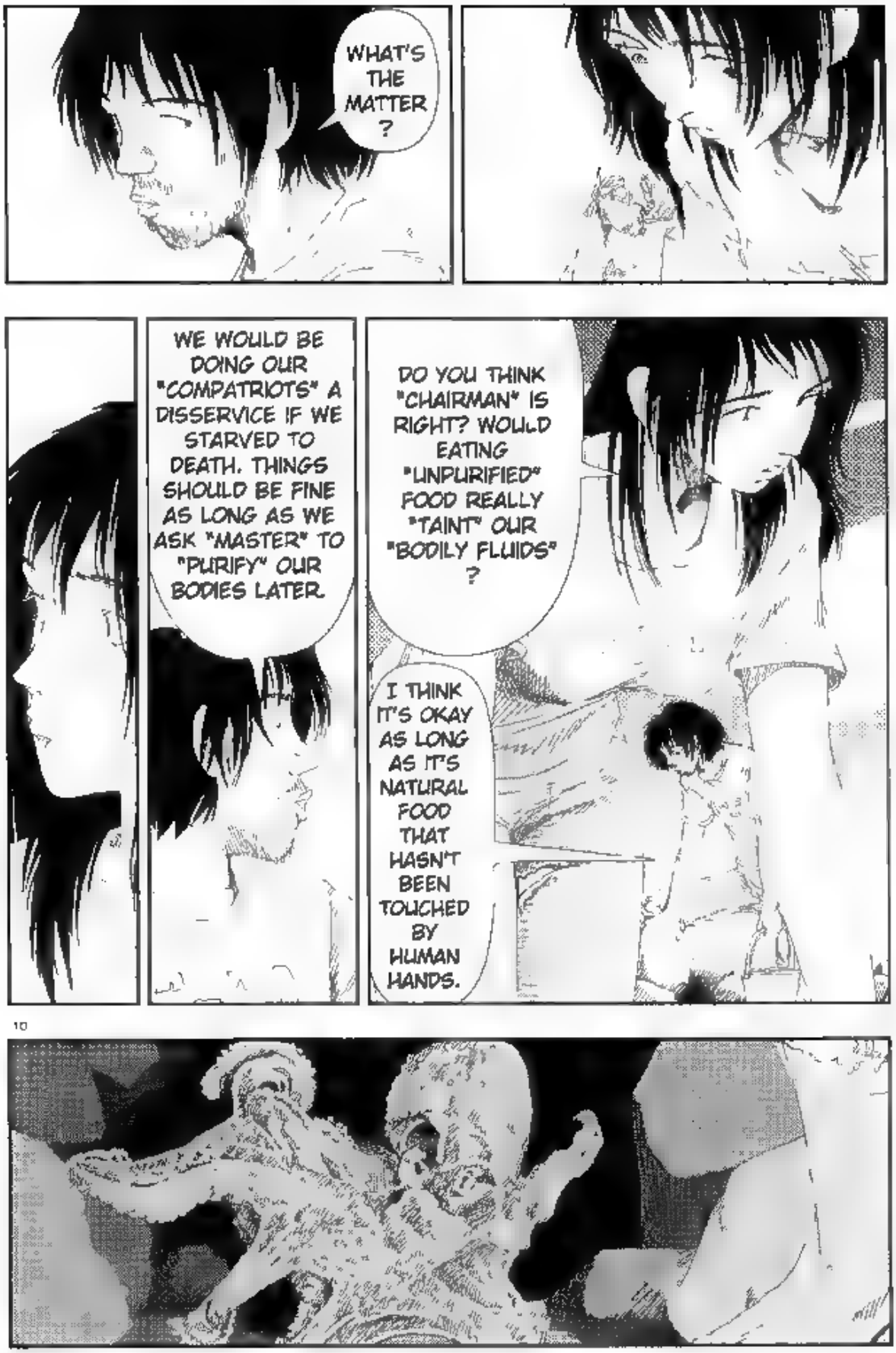
IF WE ONLY HAD SOME FLOUR LEFT.
WE NEED TO FIND HIM FOOD THAT DIGESTS EASILY AND IS RICH IN NUTRIENTS.


MMM ...

BUT LET'S GET SOME ANYWAY. FOR US TO EAT.
SEAWEEDS ARE LOW IN CALORIES, AND CRABS AND CLAMS PROBABLY DIGEST POORLY.

YOU'RE QUITE KNOWL-EDGEABLE.
WELL, I GREW UP BY THE SEA.


YOU CAN'T EAT OYSTERS THIS TIME OF THE YEAR. THEY'RE FULL OF VIRUSES, AND YOU'LL CATCH HEPATITIS.
LOOK, I FOUND SOME OYSTERS


WHAT'S THE MATTER ?
WE WOULD BE DOING OUR "COMPATRIOTS" A DISSERVICE IF WE STARVED TO DEATH. THINGS SHOULD BE FINE AS LONG AS WE ASK "MASTER" TO "PURIFY" OUR BODIES LATER.
DO YOU THINK "CHAIRMAN" IS RIGHT? WOULD EATING "UNPURIFIED" FOOD REALLY "TAINT" OUR "BODILY FLUIDS" ?
I THINK IT'S OKAY AS LONG AS IT'S NATURAL FOOD THAT HASN'T BEEN TOUCHED BY HUMAN HANDS.

10

HEY, AN OCTOPUS.

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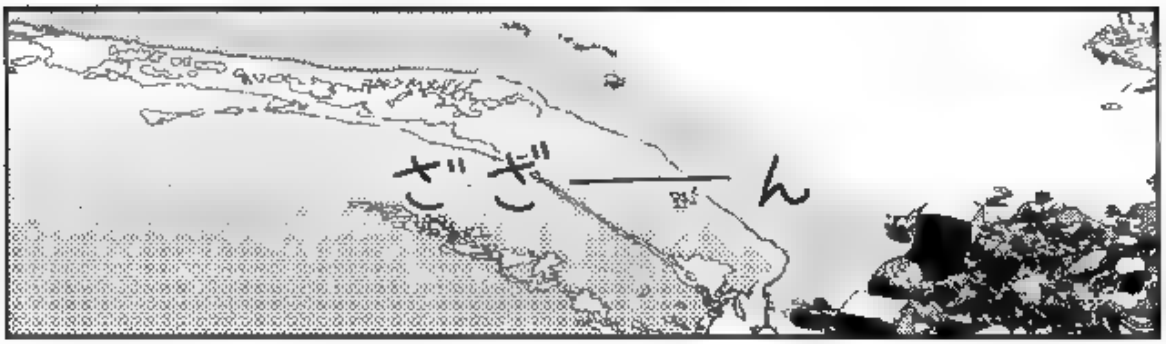
EH?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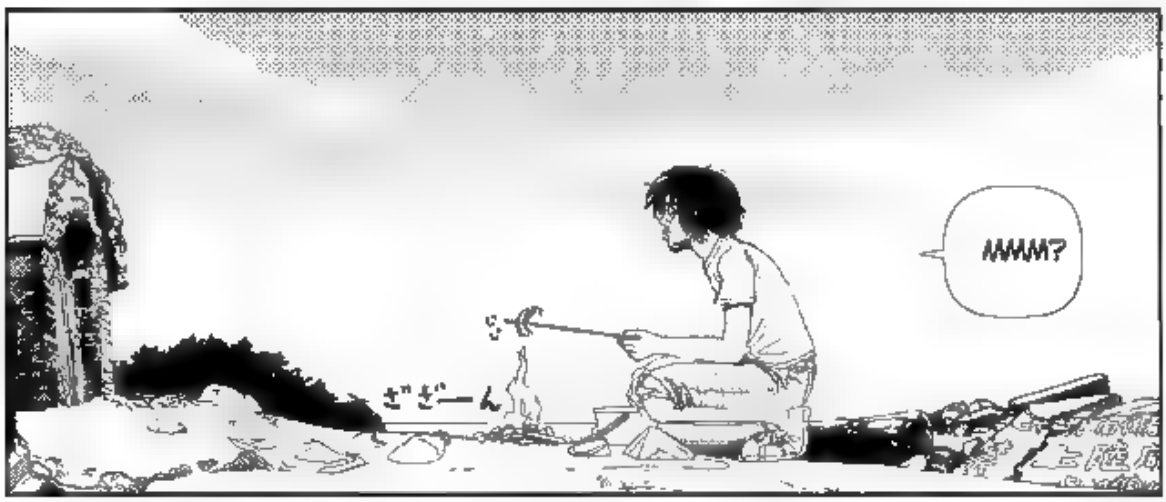
MMM?
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MMM? WHAT WAVE?
THAT WAS A BIG WAVE, WASN'T IT?

OH.

12

MMM, NICE SMELL.
.....

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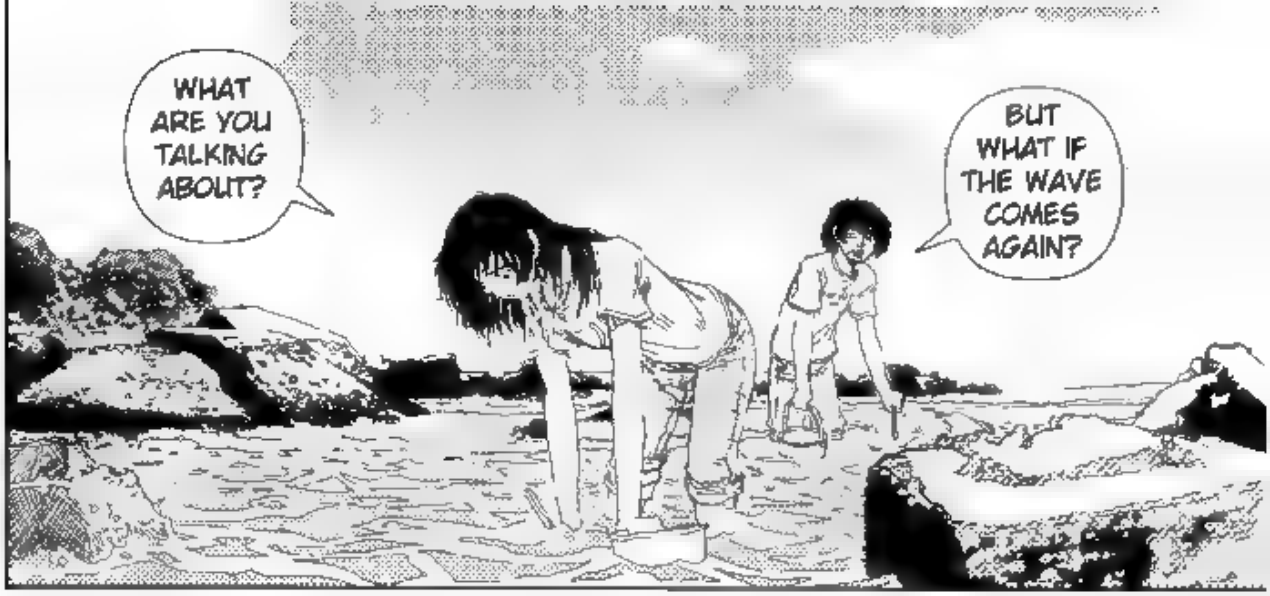
DELI-
CIOUS.
HERE.

13

I DON'T KNOW HOW WELL THEY DIGEST, BUT THEY SEEM RATHER EASY TO EAT, AND THEY'RE PROBABLY RICH IN NUTRIENTS TOO. THE YELLOWY STUFF IS EGGS, RIGHT?
FOR "CHAIR-MAN".
ざざーん
HOW ABOUT SEA URCHINS?
しゃくしゃく MUNCH MUNCH
MMM?


WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
BUT WHAT IF THE WAVE COMES AGAIN?

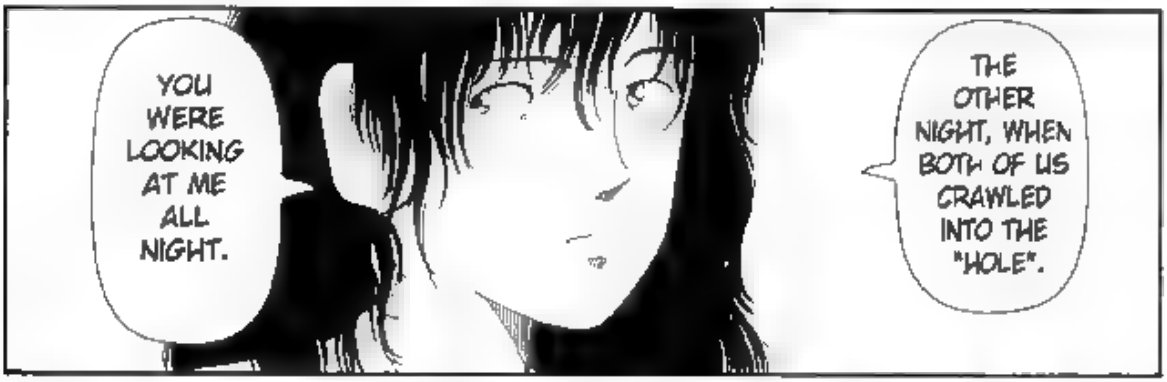
AH
じゃぼん SPLASH
WE'LL HAVE TO GO INTO DEEPER WATERS.
じゃぶじゃぶ
AH.

14

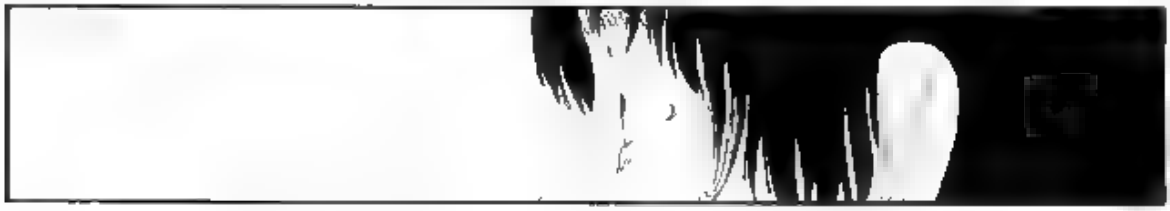
THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM HERE.
AH, I CAUGHT ONE.
ざーばあ

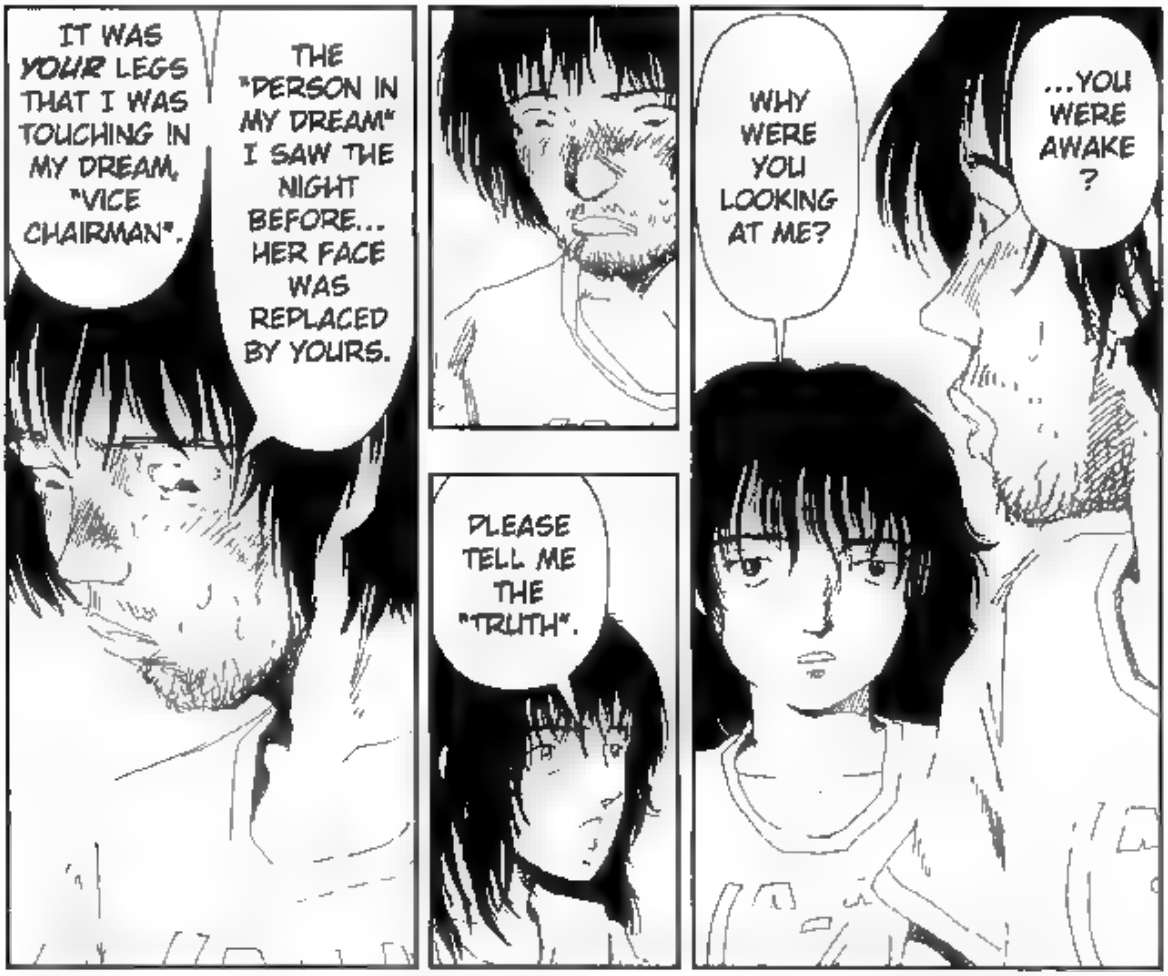
THE WATER FEELS SO NICE.
YES.
WE COULD'VE JUST BATHED IN THE SEA ALL ALONG. I WONDER WHY WE DIDN'T REALIZE THAT.
BLIT ...
DO YOU THINK IT'LL FEEL EVEN NICER IF WE TAKE OFF ALL OUR CLOTHES ?
ざざーん
どぼーん

"OPERA-TOR".
YES ?
YOU'RE A GOOD DIVER, "VICE CHAIR-MAN".
I GREW UP BY THE SEA, BUT I NEVER COULD OPEN MY EYES IN THE WATER.


YOU WERE LOOKING AT ME ALL NIGHT.
THE OTHER NIGHT, WHEN BOTH OF US CRAWLED INTO THE "HOLE".

16



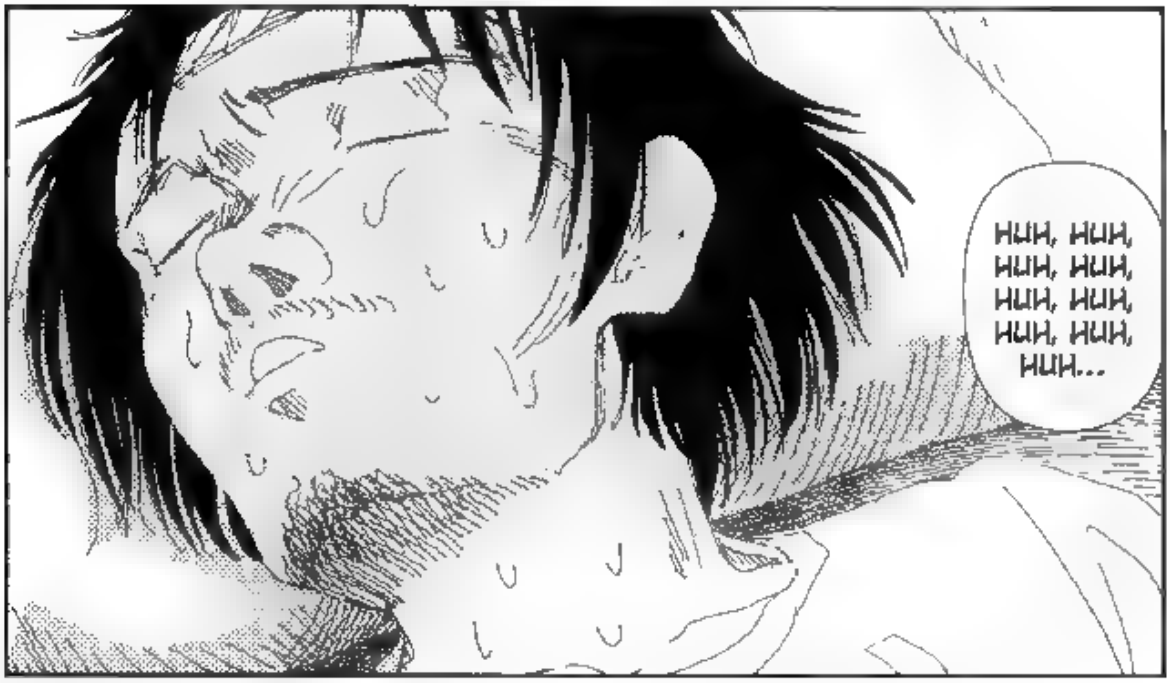

IT WAS YOUR LEGS THAT I WAS TOUCHING IN MY DREAM, "VICE CHAIRMAN".
THE "PERSON IN MY DREAM" I SAW THE NIGHT BEFORE... HER FACE WAS REPLACED BY YOURS.
PLEASE TELL ME THE "TRUTH".
WHY WERE YOU LOOKING AT ME?
...YOU WERE AWAKE?

17

.....

THANK YOU FOR TELLING ME THE "TRUTH".

MEANWHILE...


HUH, HUH, HUH, HUH, HUH, HUH, HUH, HUH, HUH...

CHAPTER 5
DIRECT CONTACT

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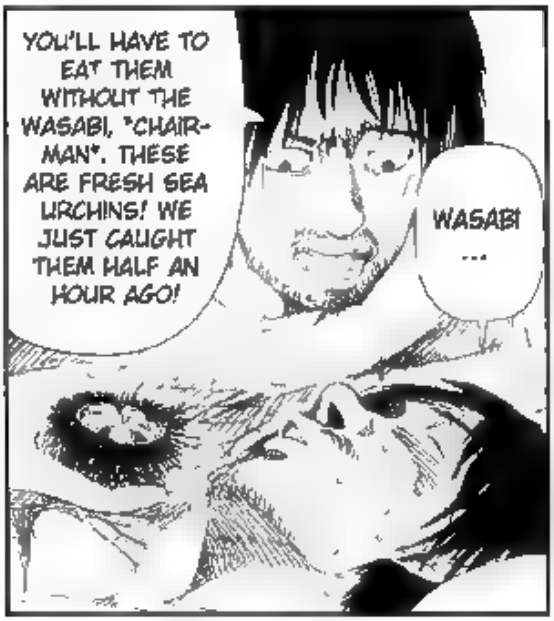
HUH, HUH, HUH, HUH, HUH, HUH, HUH...

2

.....
... WASABI ?

YOU MUST EAT THEM!!
WE BROUGHT YOU SOME SEA URCHINS, "CHAIRMAN". FRESH SEA URCHINS!
HE HAS A TERRIBLE FEVER.

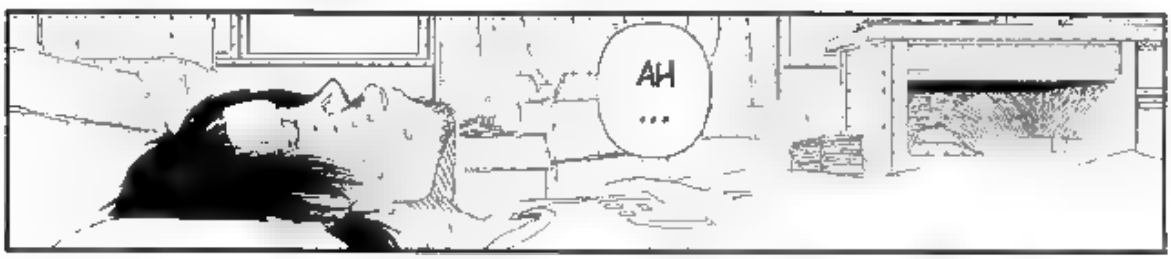

YOU'LL HAVE TO EAT THEM WITHOUT THE WASABI, "CHAIRMAN". THESE ARE FRESH SEA URCHINS! WE JUST CAUGHT THEM HALF AN HOUR AGO!
WASABI ...

ARE YOU ALRIGHT, "CHAIRMAN"?
THERE ISN'T ANY WASABI ON THE "ISLAND". THIS ISN'T A SUSHI BAR IN TOKYO.

NICE, FRESH WASABI ...

ANY REPLY TO YOUR EMERGENCY EMAIL FROM THE "1ST DIVISION"?
NONE YET.
SEA URCHINS ...

THIS DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A SIMPLE CASE OF FOOD POISONING ..
IT'S NO GOOD. THE FEVER SEEMS TO HAVE DRIVEN HIM HYSTERICAL.


AH
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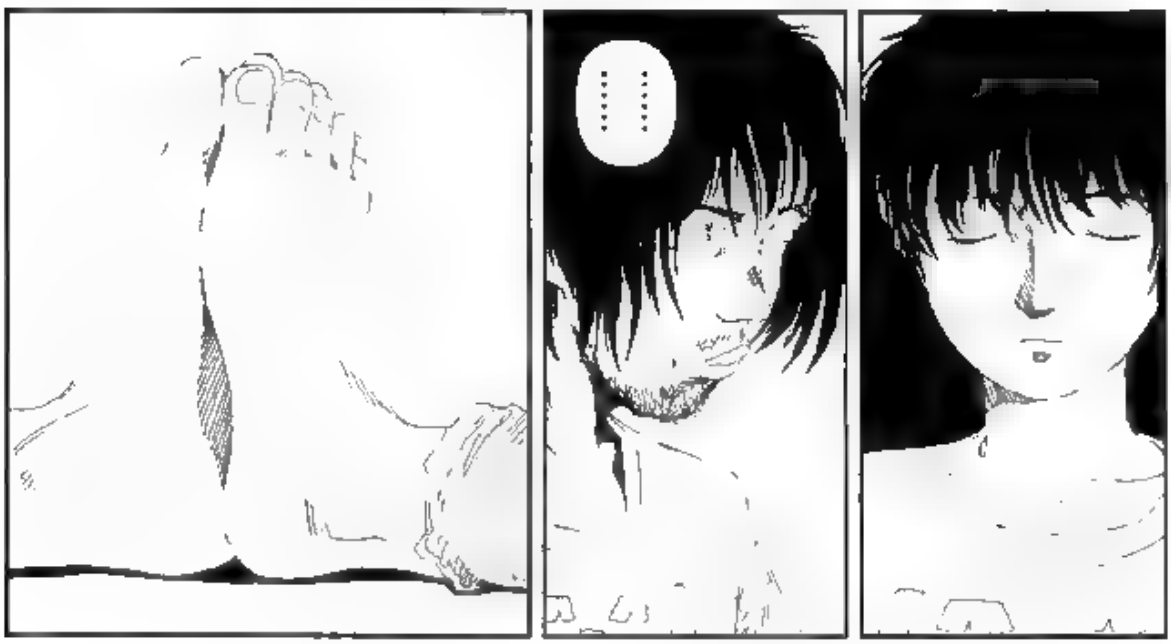
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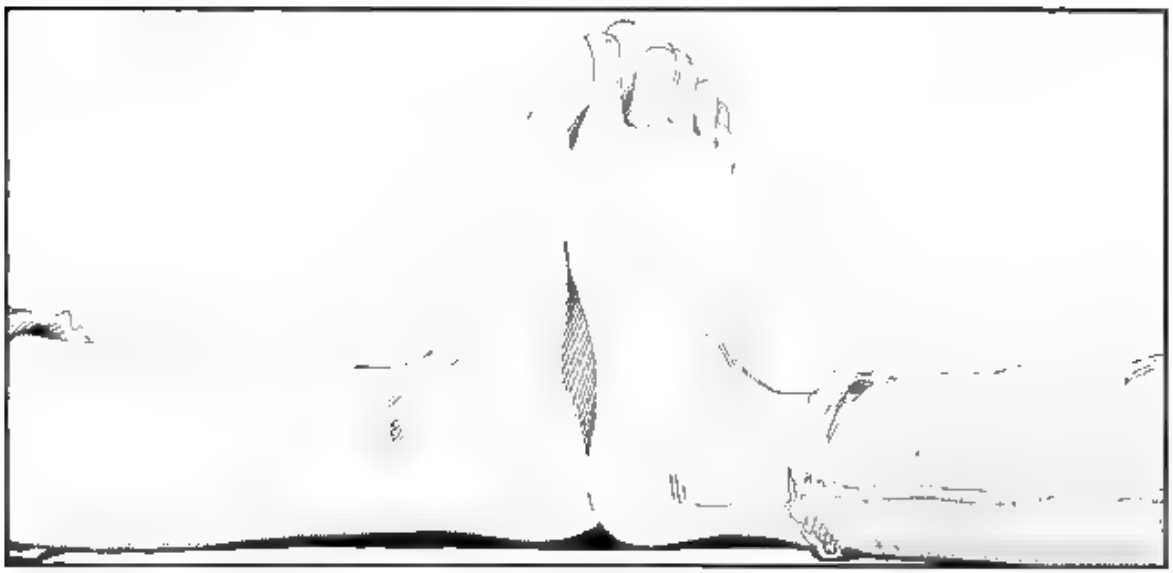

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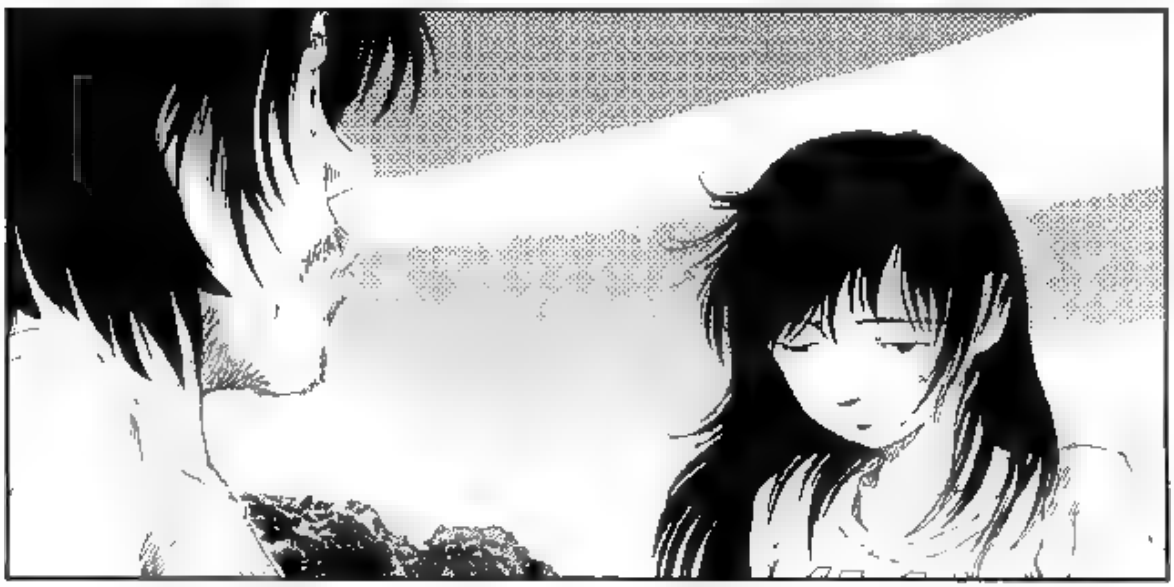

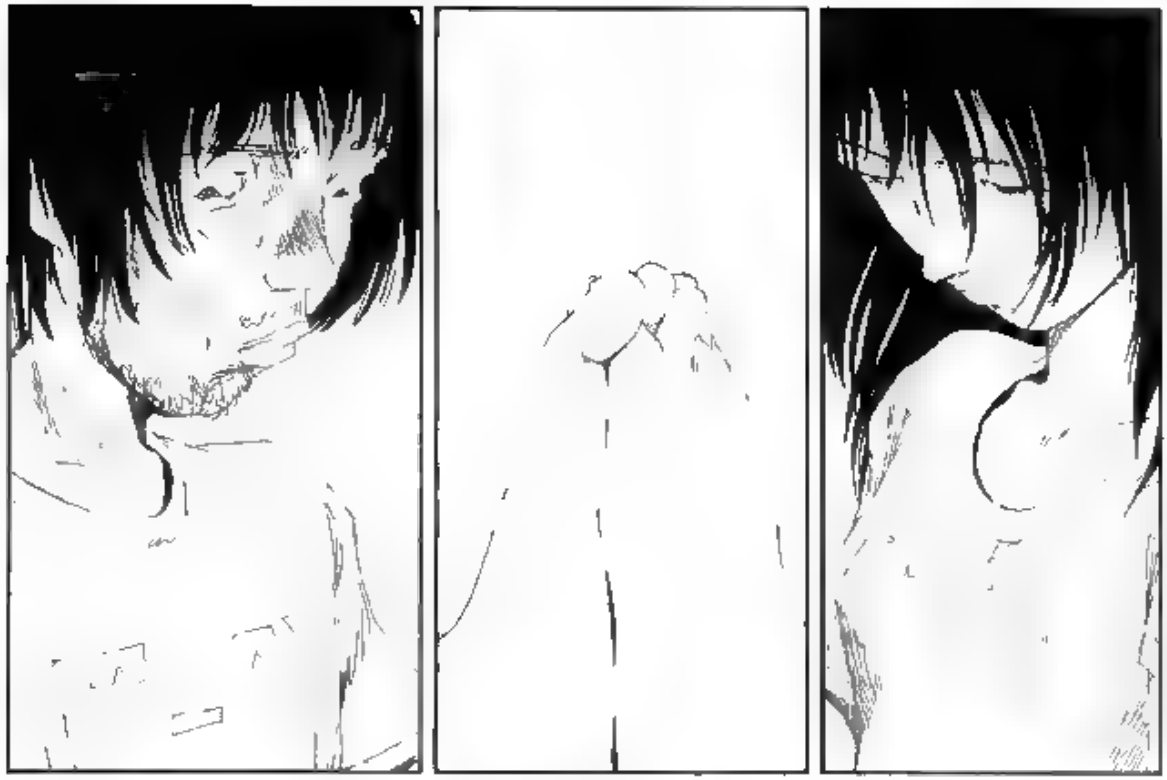

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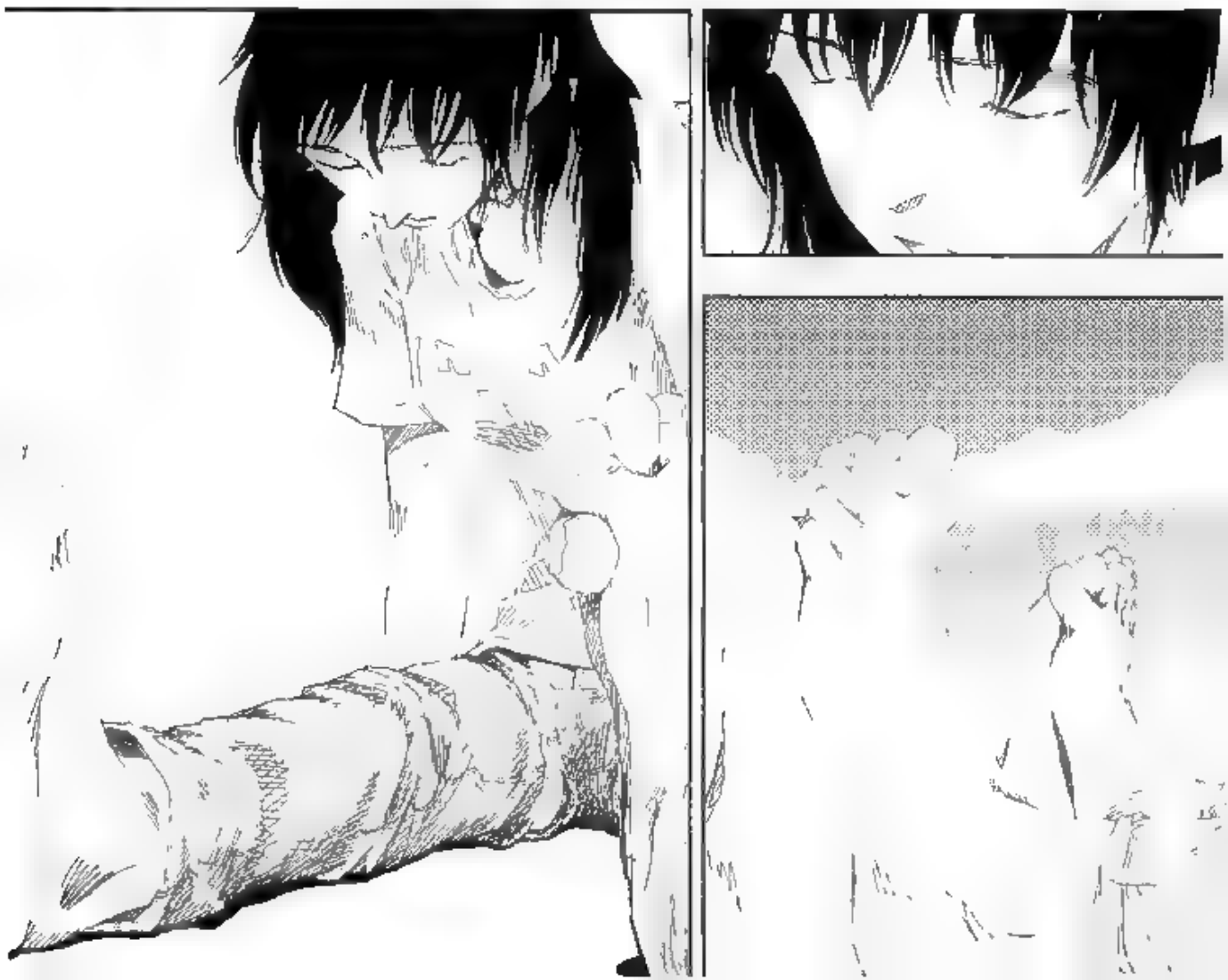
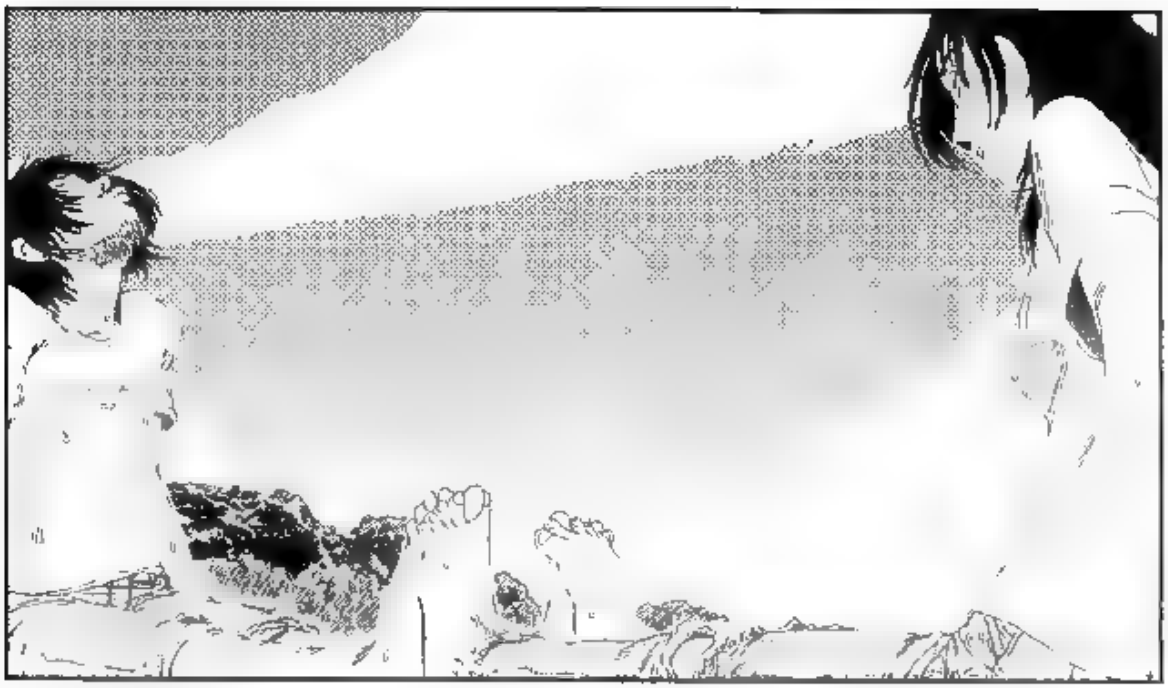
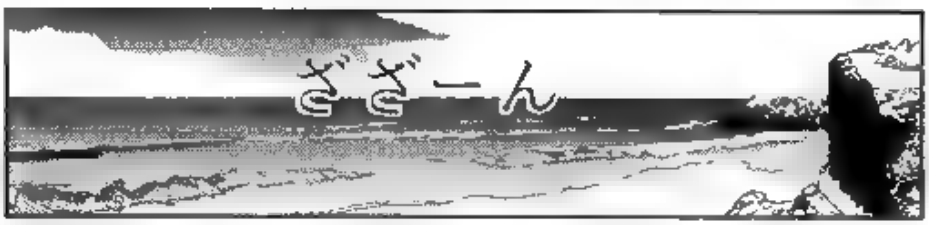


I MUST REMEMBER THIS...



"PRINT-OUT"...
"SAVE"..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NO WATER, NO FOOD SUPPLIES.
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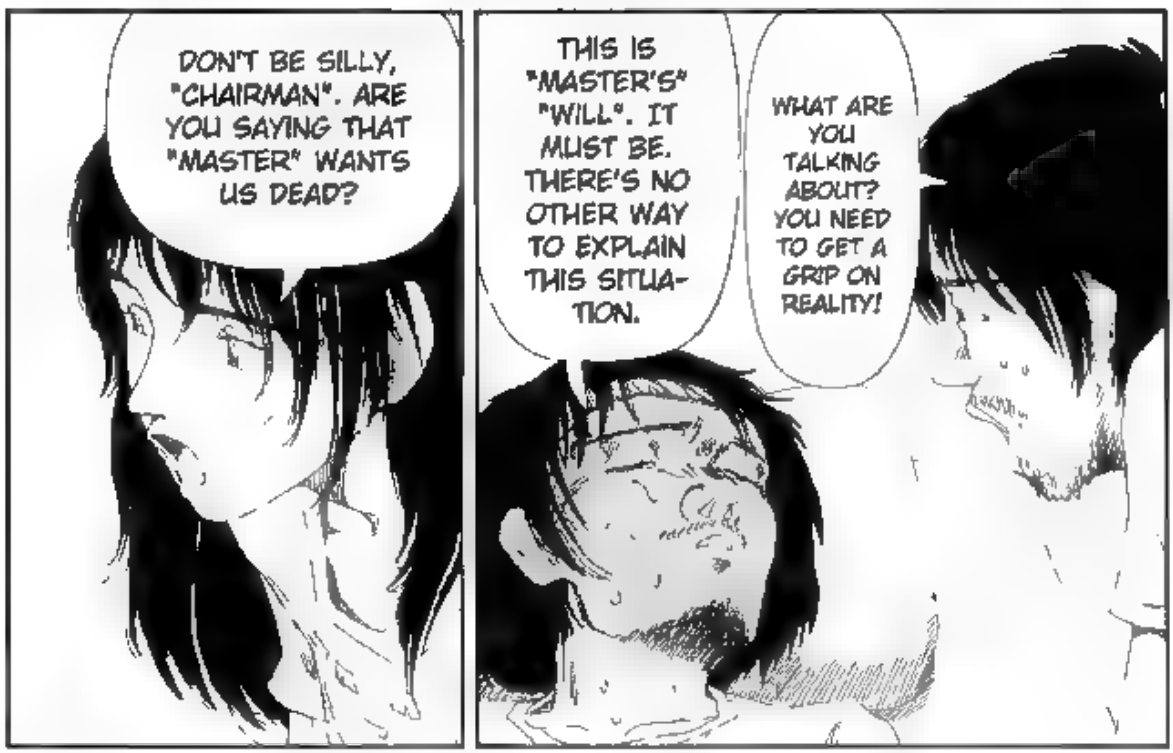
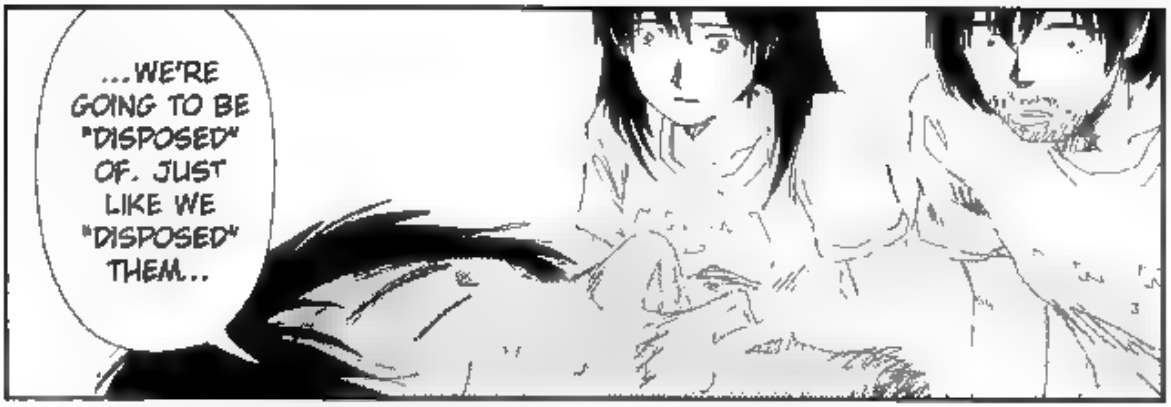
YOU HAVE TO EAT THIS.
IS THE "1ST DIVISION" REALLY GETTING OUR EMAILS?
AAAAAA AAAAAA ARGH!

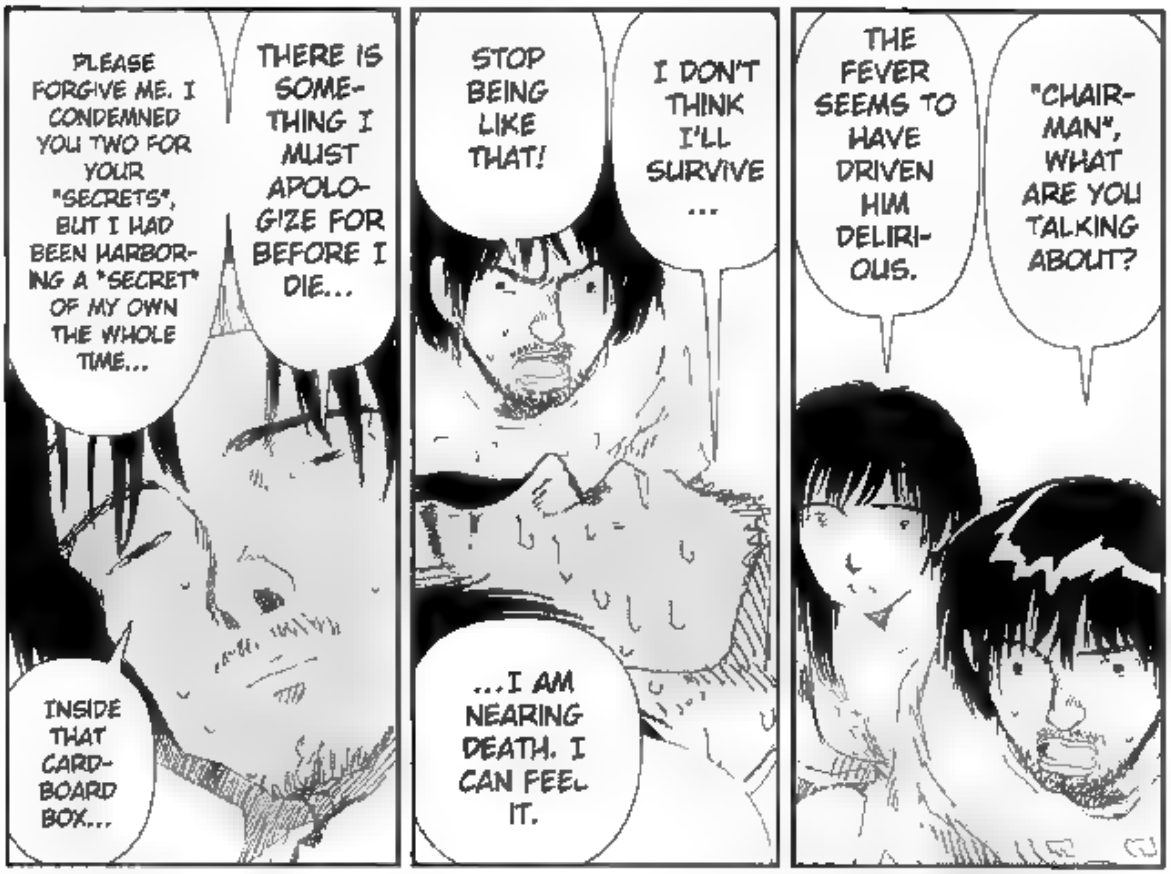
WE'RE DOWN TO OUR LAST OUT IN THE 9TH INNING. WE'LL NEVER WIN THE PENNANT AT THIS RATE...
HOW MANY CAN YOU EAT? I'M ALREADY FULL AFTER 3 SERVINGS.

IS IT TRUE? DO PEOPLE REALLY DIE IF THEY EAT IT?
...OH, HELLO.
"CHAIR-MAN"!!

10


DON'T BE SILLY, "CHAIRMAN". ARE YOU SAYING THAT "MASTER" WANTS US DEAD?
THIS IS "MASTER'S" "WILL". IT MUST BE. THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO EXPLAIN THIS SITUA-TION.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU NEED TO GET A GRIP ON REALITY!


...WE'RE GOING TO BE "DISPOSED" OF. JUST LIKE WE "DISPOSED" THEM..

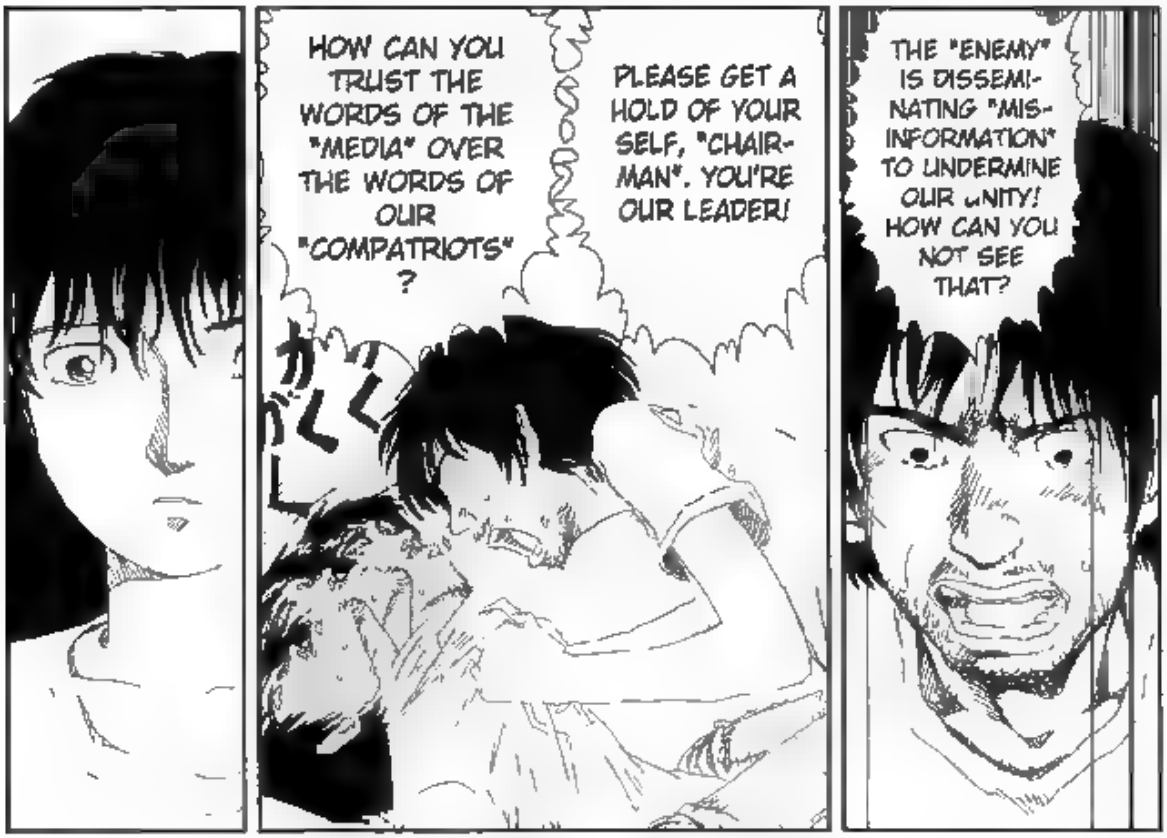

PLEASE FORGIVE ME. I CONDEMNED YOU TWO FOR YOUR "SECRETS", BUT I HAD BEEN HARBORING A "SECRET" OF MY OWN THE WHOLE TIME...
THERE IS SOMETHING I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR BEFORE I DIE...
INSIDE THAT CARDBOARD BOX...
STOP BEING LIKE THAT!
I DON'T THINK I'LL SURVIVE ...
...I AM NEARING DEATH. I CAN FEEL IT.
THE FEVER SEEMS TO HAVE DRIVEN HIM DELIRIOUS.
"CHAIRMAN", WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

11

WEEKLY MANGA
NAKED GIRLS AT WORK
MAY 5 THE TRUTH BEHIND THE RELIGIOUS CULT

I SAW THE BLURB MENTIONING OUR "COMPATRIOTS" ON THE COVER, AND I COULDN'T RESIST THE TEMPTATION, EVEN THOUGH I KNEW I SHOULDN'T.
I FOUND IT ON THE BEACH SEVERAL WEEKS AGO ...
WHAT IS...
EXACTLY. NONE OF THE "REPORTS" PROVIDED BY THE "1ST DIVISION" MENTIONED ANY OF THAT.
HOW CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT? THE MEDIA IS OBVIOUSLY "MANIPULATING" INFORMATION.
PERHAPS THAT EXPLAINS THE COMMUNICATION TROUBLE WE'VE BEEN HAVING LATELY, AND THE FOOD SUPPLIES.
THE ARTICLE REPORTED THAT OUR "COMPATRIOTS" ARE BEING PERSECUTED BY THE "ENEMY" ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THE ORGANIZATION IS IN DISARRAY, AND FUNDS ARE RUNNING SHORT.
12
...APPARENTLY, THE "3RD DIVISION CHIEF" HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY THE "AUTHORITIES".

I'M NOT AWARE WHAT THE CHARGE WAS, AS THAT PART OF THE ARTICLE WAS TORN...
BUT IT SEEMS THAT HE WAS HIDING IN AN APARTMENT ROOM WITH A FEMALE MEMBER OF THE "ORGANIZATION", WHERE HE WAS DISCOVERED BY THE "AUTHORITIES".


HOW CAN YOU TRUST THE WORDS OF THE "MEDIA" OVER THE WORDS OF OUR "COMPATRIOTS"?
PLEASE GET A HOLD OF YOUR SELF, "CHAIRMAN". YOU'RE OUR LEADER!
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THE "ENEMY" IS DISSEMINATING "MISINFORMATION" TO UNDERMINE OUR UNITY! HOW CAN YOU NOT SEE THAT?

13

UH... "OPERATOR"...?
ばきっ
ばきっ
ばきっ
I CAN'T BEAR TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS!

YOU SHOULDN'T READ THAT, "VICE CHAIRMAN". YOUR MIND WILL END UP BEING "TAINTED" LIKE "CHAIRMAN'S" WAS.
HOW CAN THE "MEDIA" CONTINUE TO FEED THIS KIND OF FILTH TO THE MASSES?
SEX, SEX, SEX. NOTHING BUT SEX.

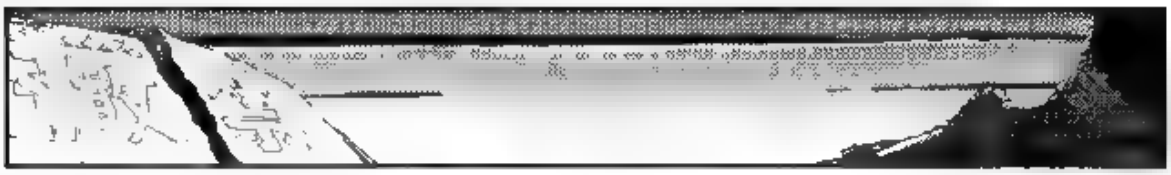
BABES AT THE OFFICE

I IMAGINE THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS ...
DO YOU THINK THAT'S WHY HE FELL ILL ...?

"DIRECT CONTACT" ?
I DON'T THINK WE HAVE ANY CHOICE BUT TO ATTEMPT "DIRECT CONTACT"
WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING; HE'S GOING TO END UP DYING AS A "SCUM"...

I KNOW IT'S FORBIDDEN. BUT THIS IS AN "EMERGENCY SITUATION".
BUT ...

LET'S WAIT HERE FOR NIGHT TO FALL.
DO YOU THINK THE "BOAT" WILL COME TONIGHT?
IF IT DOESN'T, WE'LL WAIT HERE TOMORROW NIGHT.
LET'S GET SOME SLEEP WHILE WE CAN.



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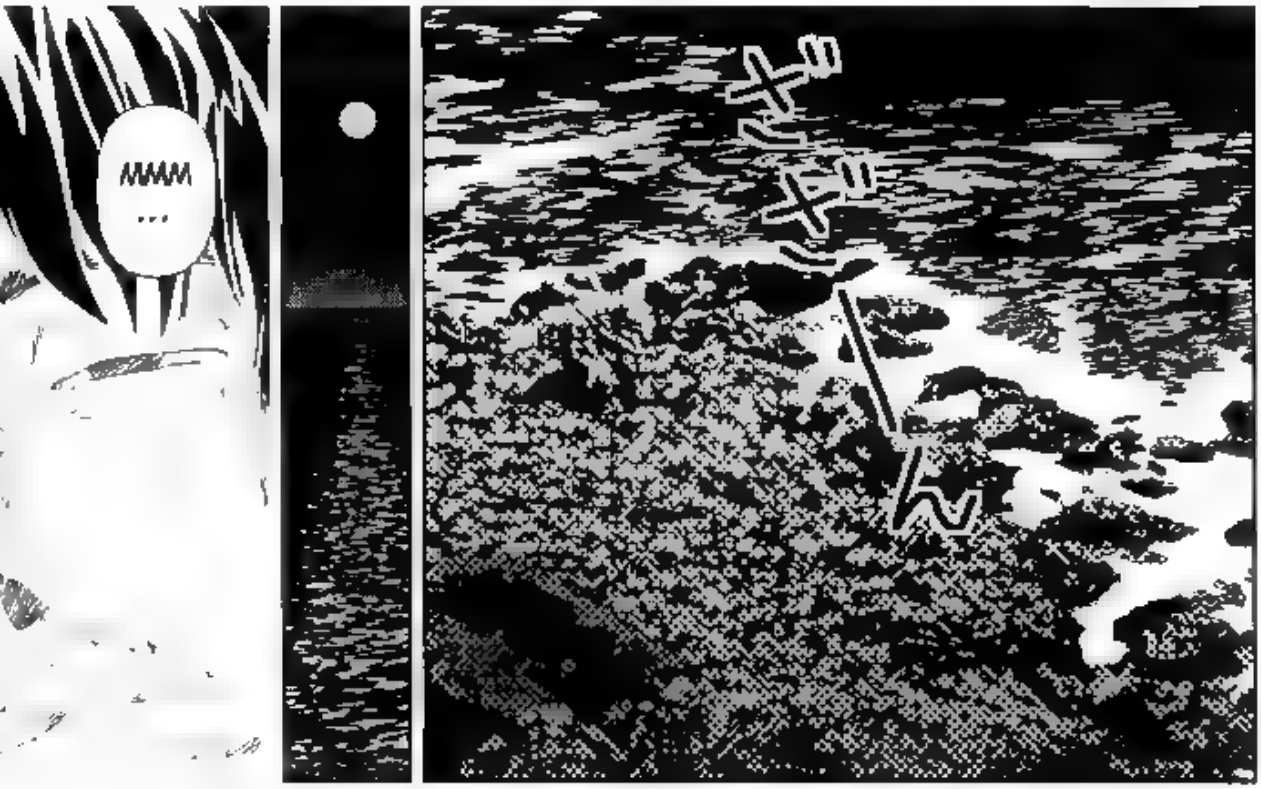
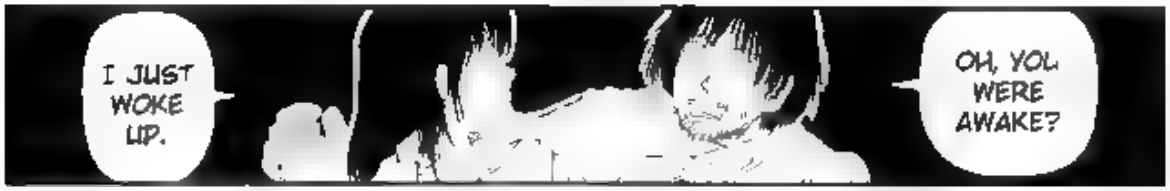

MMM ...

IT'S STARTING TO GET COLD, ISN'T IT?


I JUST WOKE UP.
OH, YOU WERE AWAKE?

YOU WERE "CHAIRMAN" BEFORE I CAME, RIGHT?
.....

WHEN "CHAIRMAN" SAID 'JUST LIKE WE "DISPOSED" THEM'...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WHAT HAPPENED ON THE ISLAND BEFORE I CAME HERE?
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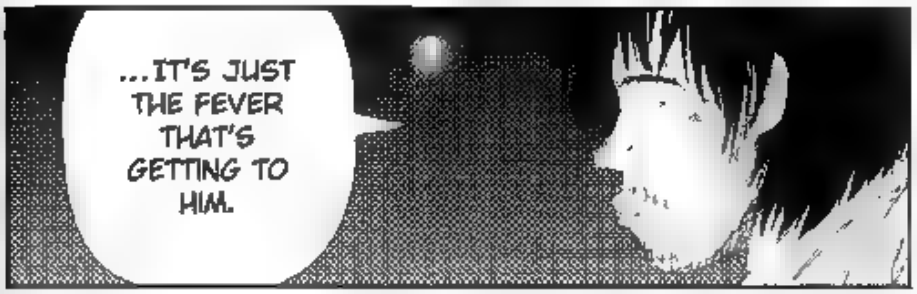
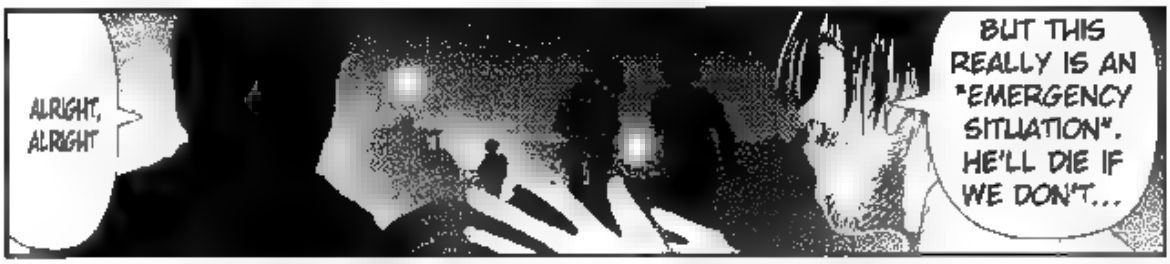

...IT'S JUST THE FEVER THAT'S GETTING TO HIM.

MMM?
...I'M SORRY
...NO.
.....
...IF "CHAIRMAN" DIES, IT'LL JUST BE THE TWO OF US ON THE "ISLAND".

THE "BOAT"!

... WE'RE SORRY

MMM?

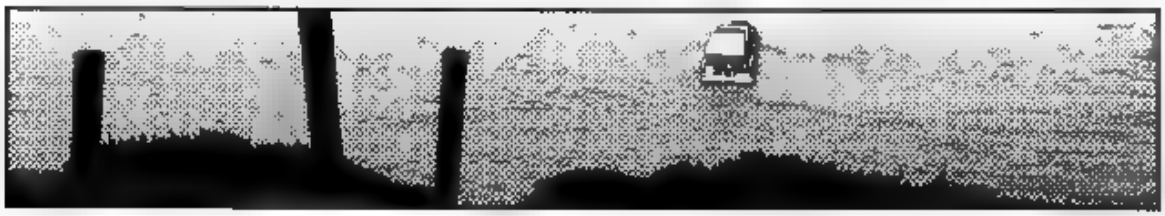

ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT
BUT THIS REALLY IS AN "EMERGENCY SITUATION". HE'LL DIE IF WE DON'T...

9

DON'T WORRY, WE RECEIVED YOUR EMAIL.
SO...

WE CAN'T HAVE YOU DOING THIS. THERE ARE CONFIDENTIALITY ISSUES. WE CANNOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN "ENEMY SPY" HIDING AMONG OUR "COMPATRIOTS".
BUT "DIRECT CONTACT" IS FORBIDDEN.
WE'RE SORRY

UM, WHAT ABOUT FOOD SUPPLIES .?
WE WERE ONLY "INSTRUCTED" TO PROVIDE YOU WITH MEDICATION. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION, PLEASE FORWARD AN EMAIL TO THE "1ST DIVISION"
ALSO, I BELIEVE THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE A "NOTICE" FROM THE "1ST DIVISION" REGARDING HOW YOU WILL BE DEALT WITH FOR THIS "DIRECT CONTACT".



THIS ...
HUH, HUH, HUH, HUH.

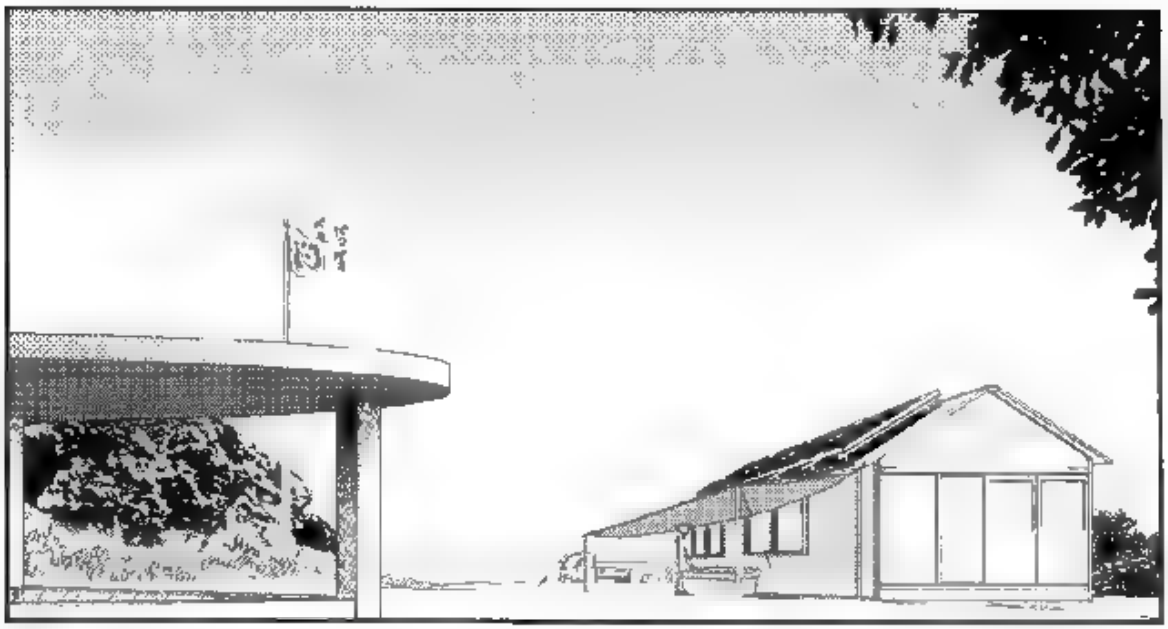
20

,IS DIARRHEA MEDICA-TION, RIGHT ?

CHAPTER 6 - INTRUDER

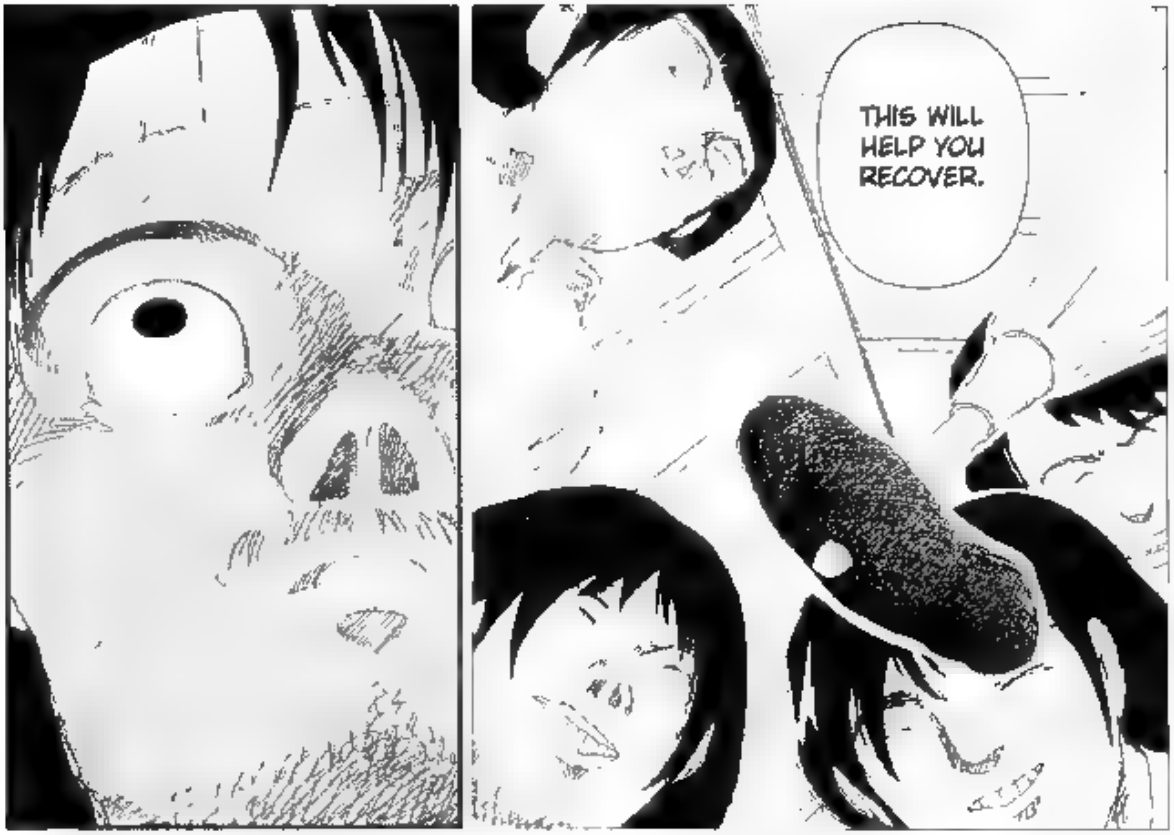
TRANSLATED BY
STEPHEN PAUL AND
SUMMER SOLDIER

SCANNED AND EDITED BY
GATSU



THEY'VE SENT US MEDICATION THAT "MASTER" HAS "PURIFIED"!!
LOOK AT THIS, "CHAIRMAN"! DIARRH...ER ... MEDICINE!

2


THIS WILL HELP YOU RECOVER.

AND SO "CHAIR-MAN'S" CONDITION SEEMED DIRE...

"CHAIR-MAN"!!
NOOO OOOO ...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, "CHAIR-MAN"?! THIS IS MEDICINE.

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THE MAGAZINE I FOUND MUST HAVE "TAINTED" MY SPIRIT, HOW INCREDIBLY CARELESS I WAS. IT'S CLEAR THAT I AM STILL QUITE FIRMLY IN THE MINDSET OF A "RASH AND INEXPERIENCED YOUNG SOUL". WE SHOULD BURN THAT MAGAZINE ASAP.
BUT HE RECOVERED SURPRISINGLY FAST...
I SEE. I REALLY SAID ALL OF THOSE THINGS? I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO RECOLLECTION OF IT. HOW EMBARRASSING.

.....
THAT WAS ONLY DIARRHEA MEDICATION, RIGHT...?

WE THREW THEM AWAY ...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, COULD IT BE THAT THE PURPLISH THING I ATE WAS PART OF THE "PROGRAM" ITSELF? MAYBE IF YOU ATE IT AS WELL YOU COULD ALSO ACHIEVE THIS "PLATITUDE" THAT I AM INHABITING MYSELF.
ER, ACTUALLY ...

ARE YOU FEELING BETTER NOW?
OH, ABSOLUTELY. I FEEL SIMPLY SUBLIME. I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER FELT SO REFRESHED BEFORE IN MY LIFE. IF I WERE TO RATE IT, I'D SAY THAT I AM AT 100% FRESHNESS RIGHT NOW. IT'S THE FIRST TIME MY MIND HAS EVER SEEMED SO CLEAR. IT'S AS IF THE FENCES IN MY HEART HAVE BEEN TORN DOWN. LIKE MY HEART HAS BEEN LIBERATED, MAYBE? AT THE TOP OF MY GAME, SO TO SPEAK.

UM, WELL ...
THE FOOD THAT "MASTER" GAVE US ...?
THREW THEM AWAY?
AH...
HAHAHAHAHA, I'M JUST KIDDING. "MASTER" WOULD NEVER INTENTIONALLY SUBJECT US TO SUCH AWFUL EXPERIENCES, EVEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRAINING.
NO NO, THERE'S NO PROBLEM WHATSOEVER. EVERYTHING IS SAVED PERFECTLY IN THE "WORD PROCESSOR" IN MY BRAIN. THIS IS SURELY THE RESULT OF MY LONG "DREAM-SAVING PROGRAM". I MEAN, LOOK... THE WORDS ARE SIMPLY FLYING OFF MY PEN ONTO THE PAGE!
ARE WE RUINING YOUR CONCENTRATION?
OH, THIS? PARDON ME FOR NOT MENTIONING IT. THIS IS MY "DREAM", AS YOU KNOW, THE TRANSCRIPT OF MY SPECTACULAR EPIC "DREAM" THAT I WAS UNABLE TO RECORD FOR SO LONG. FOR SOME REASON DUE TO MY FEVER, I SUCCEEDED IN "SAVING" EVERY LAST BIT IN FULL DETAIL.
UM ...
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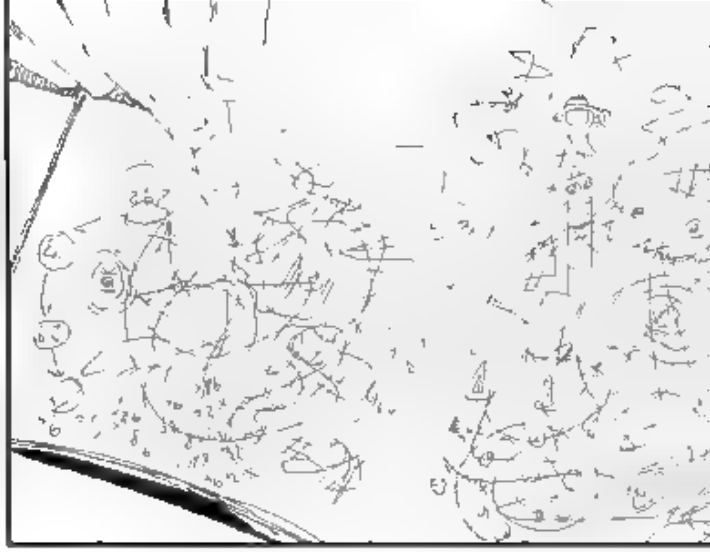

THIS SETS THE STAGE FOR THE EARTH DEFENSE FORCE TO APPEAR. THE EDF GIVES OUR HERO A GALACTIC NUCLEAR FUSION LASER IN ORDER TO DEFEAT THE BIO-ZOMBIES THAT ARE CURRENTLY OVERRUNNING THE UNDERWORLD. THIS IS WHEN HE HEARS THE SHOCKING TRUTH. THE WORLD HE KNOWS IS ACTUALLY WHAT REMAINS AFTER NUCLEAR WAR DESTROYED 99% OF ALL HUMANITY. HUMANITY MIGRATED TO OTHER STARS TO ESCAPE THE KILLER RADIATION. OH, BUT THIS IS IN THE FUTURE SET TWO THOUSAND YEARS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FLOATING CITY ANYWAY, AFTER A NEAR-FATAL BATTLE WITH GIANT MUTANT GORILLAS, OUR HERO COMES ACROSS AN OUTDOOR BATH. IT'S BASICALLY A HUGE OUTDOOR BATH TUCKED IN BETWEEN TWO HUGE ROCK WALLS, JUST LIKE THE GRAND CANYON. AS HE WALKS ABOUT THIS BATH, HE COMES TO A GIANT TOMB. AROUND THE TOMB HE SEES FIVE THOUSAND BEAUTIFUL NAKED WOMEN DANCING A RITUALISTIC DANCE. FOR HE HAD ACTUALLY WALKED INTO A WOMAN'S BATH.

SO THE NEXT CHAPTER, CHAPTER 19, IS A SCI-FI SET IN THE FUTURE. THE SETTING IS A CITY THAT CAN FLOAT IN THE AIR. OUR PROTAGONIST, A LOWER-CLASS CITIZEN, HAS THE JOB OF PROCURING BOLTS THAT FALL OUT WHEN THE BOTTOM OF THE BUILDINGS BECOME UNSTABLE. IT'S A WORLD WHERE EVERYONE FLIES THROUGH THE AIR. ONE DAY, HE LANDS UPON A PIECE OF RUINED EARTH THAT WAS ONCE KNOWN AS THE 'SURFACE', WHERE HE FINDS MANY MANY DEAD BODIES STREWN ABOUT IN PIECES. LAYABOUTS, DOCTORS AND THEIR MISTRESSES, NIGHTLIFE HERMAPHRODITES AND NORMAL OFFICE WORKERS, ALL DIFFERENT KINDS OF CORPSES. BECAUSE ALL OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS AGE ARE CYBORGS, THE BITS AND PIECES OF THEIR BODIES ARE OF COURSE MACHINERY. WALKING THROUGH THIS 'SURFACE' LITTERED WITH DEAD BODIES, OUR HERO COMES ACROSS A VAGRANT. THIS VAGRANT IS ACTUALLY THE SON OF THE FIRST PRINCE AND SEVENTH PRINCESS, WHO SUDDENLY VOMITED FORTH A DRAGON IN THE MIDDLE OF A MEAL BACK NEAR THE END OF CHAPTER 7. OH, BUT HIS ACTUAL FATHER IS, OF COURSE, THE FORTY-SIXTH HIGH CHAMBERLAIN, AS I SAID EARLIER.

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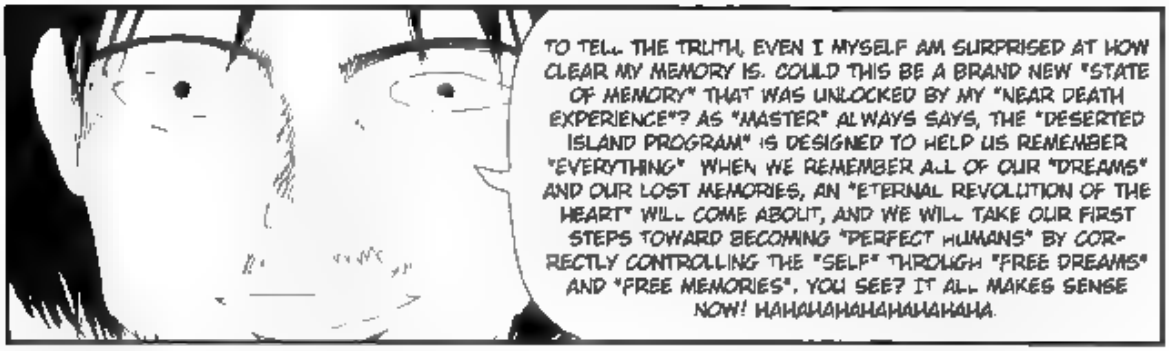
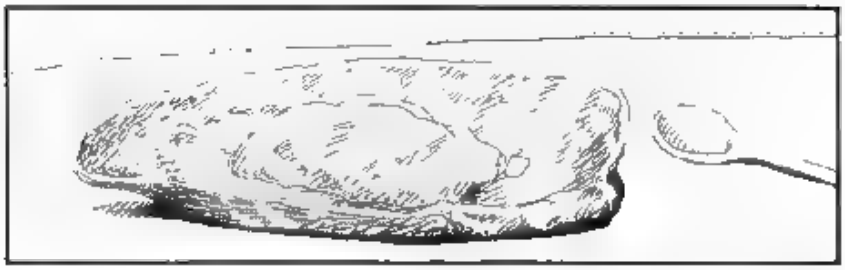
...WELL, WE CAN LEAVE OFF THERE, FOR TODAY. HAVE NO FEAR; THE REMAINING 59 CHAPTERS ARE PRESERVED INSIDE MY HEAD, IN THERE ENTIRETY


TO TELL THE TRUTH, EVEN I MYSELF AM SURPRISED AT HOW CLEAR MY MEMORY IS. COULD THIS BE A BRAND NEW "STATE OF MEMORY" THAT WAS UNLOCKED BY MY "NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE"? AS "MASTER" ALWAYS SAYS, THE "DESERTED ISLAND PROGRAM" IS DESIGNED TO HELP US REMEMBER "EVERYTHING". WHEN WE REMEMBER ALL OF OUR "DREAMS" AND OUR LOST MEMORIES, AN "ETERNAL REVOLUTION OF THE HEART" WILL COME ABOUT, AND WE WILL TAKE OUR FIRST STEPS TOWARD BECOMING "PERFECT HUMANS" BY CORRECTLY CONTROLLING THE "SELF" THROUGH "FREE DREAMS" AND "FREE MEMORIES". YOU SEE? IT ALL MAKES SENSE NOW! HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA.



WE'RE OKAY FOR WATER, BUT OUR FOOD SUPPLY HAS RUN OUT...
IT'S, UH, COOKED SEA URCHIN ...
... WHAT IS THIS?

7

AH WELL, WE'LL DO WHAT WE MUST. IT WON'T DO TO HAVE US STARVE TO DEATH, NO? BUT ANYWAY, WHY WOULDN'T THERE BE ANY FOOD IN OUR SHIPMENTS? IT'S ALSO STRANGE THAT THE "INSTRUCTIONS" THEY FORWARD US ELECTRONICALLY DON'T MENTION THAT EITHER. COULD THIS BE ANOTHER "MYSTERY" THAT "MASTER" HAS PREPARED US, TO TEST US?

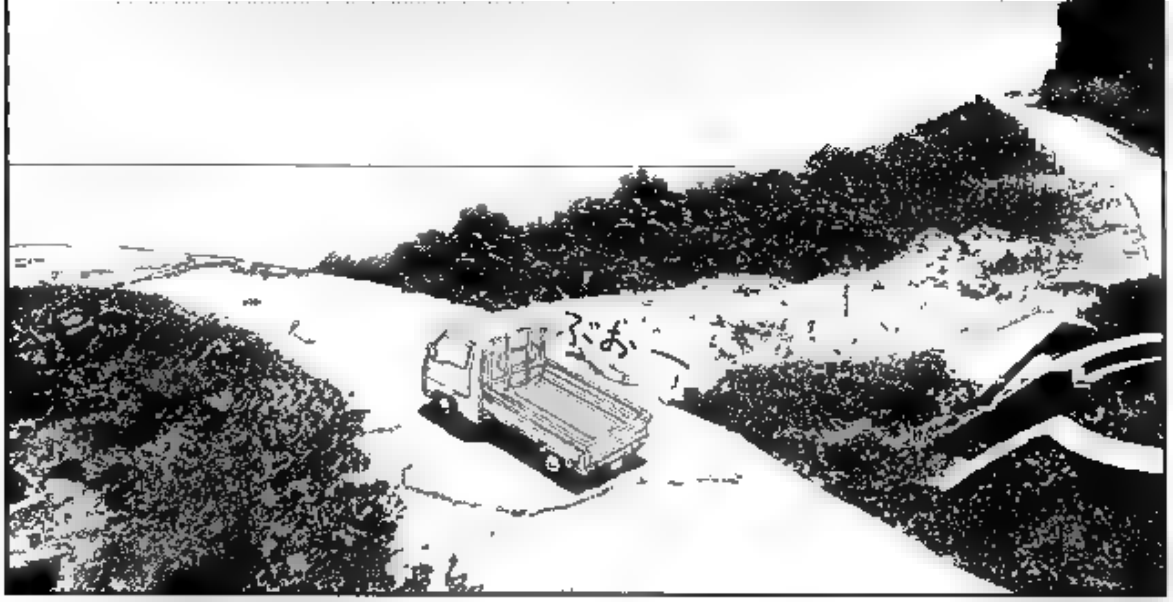
IN FACT, ALL THE PHILOSOPHIES AND RELIGIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD ARE CULLED FROM THE KNOWLEDGE OF PAST CIVILIZATION, YOU SEE.
ACTUALLY, THIS "CEREMONY" ITSELF IS SIMPLY A FICTIONAL RITUAL THAT APPEARS IN AN AMERICAN SCI-FI NOVEL. "MASTER" HAS IMPLEMENTED IT INTO HIS OWN TEACHINGS. OF COURSE, I DO NOT MEAN TO IMPLY THAT THIS IN ANY WAY LOWERS THE VALUE OF OUR "MASTER" AND HIS "PROGRAM".

OH, I'M SORRY. MY HEAD S SO FULL OF IDEAS; I CAN'T HELP BUT KEEP TALKING. I'LL BE QUIET.

CHAIR-MAN..

8

AH...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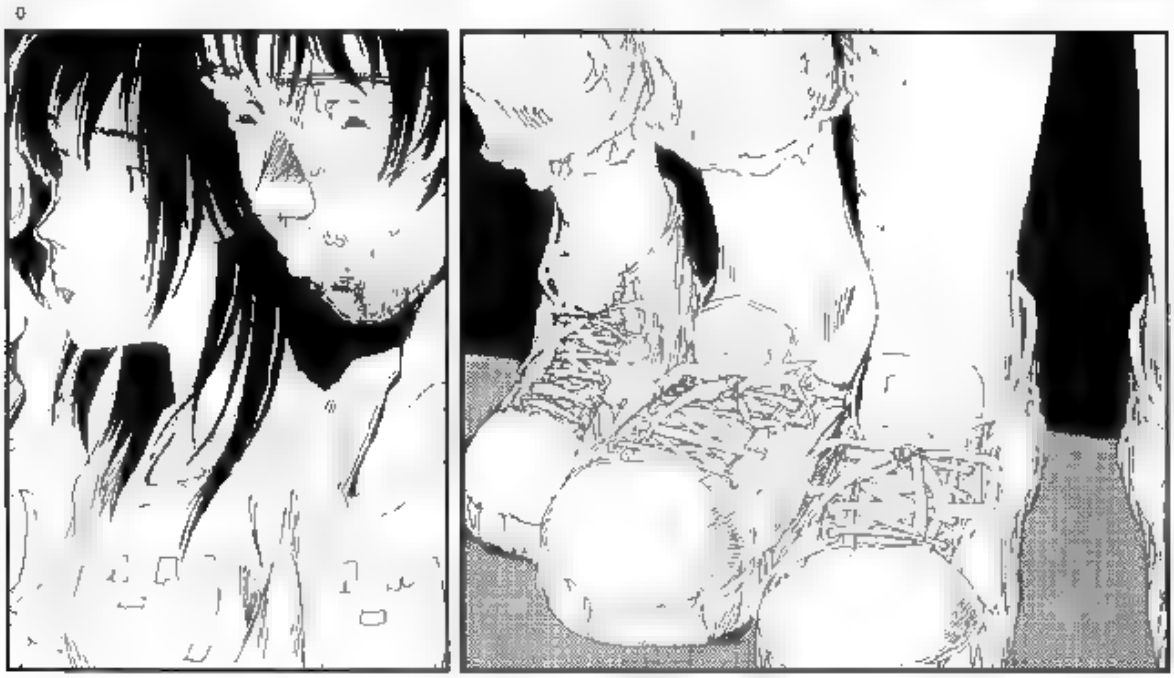
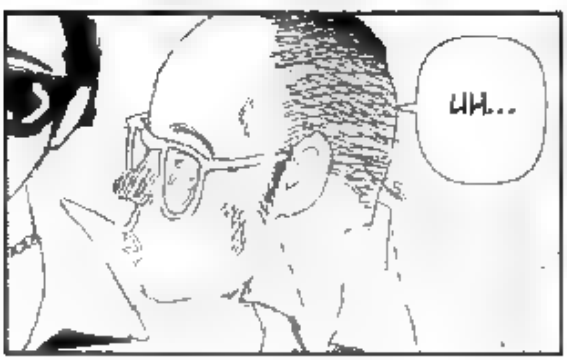
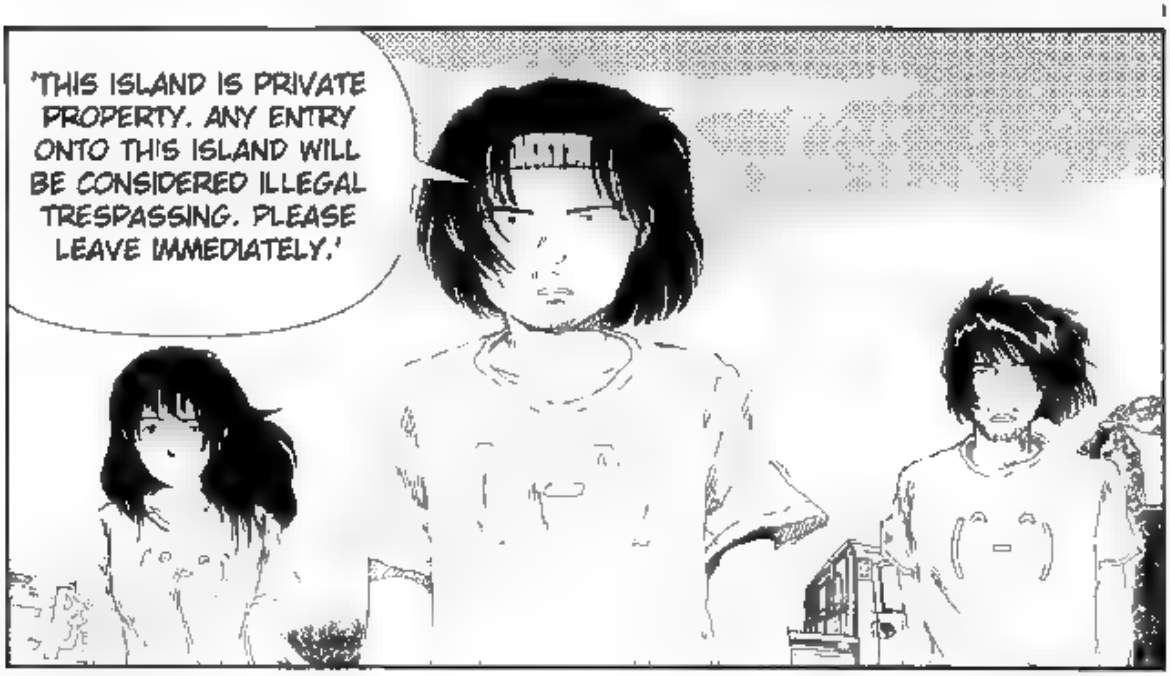
THERE IS NO LAND IN THE SURROUNDING SEAS, AND THE "ISLAND" S PRETTY FAR AWAY FROM THE FISHING AREAS. THE CHANCE OF OTHER BOATS, BESIDES THE "BOAT", FINDING THEIR WAY HERE SHOULD BE SLIM.
DO YOU THINK IT'S AN "INTRUDER" ?
THERE'S NO WAY THE "BOAT" WOULD COME HERE IN BROAD DAY-LIGHT...



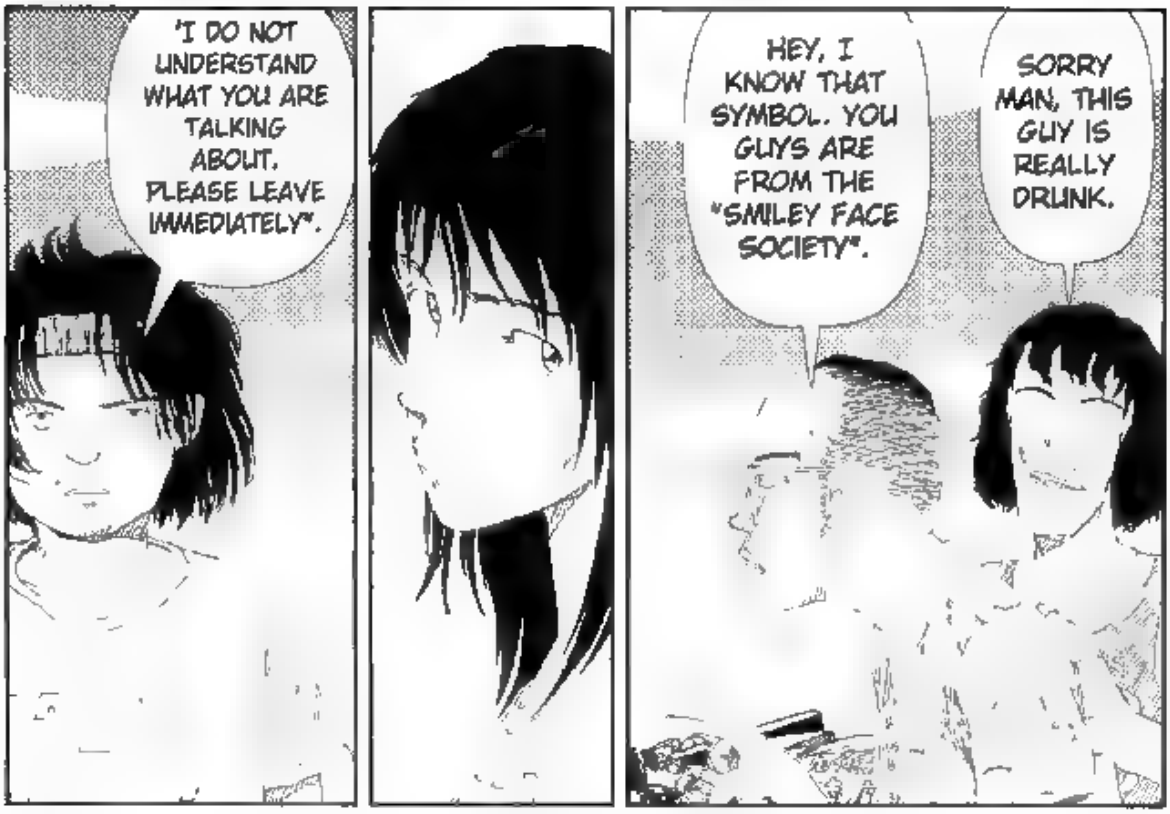
THIS LOOKS LIKE A FORMER ARTILLERY BASE FOR THE JAPANESE ARMY. I GUESS IT WAS DESTROYED BY AN EARTHQUAKE OR A TIDAL WAVE.
YO MAN, WE'RE ON LAND NOW.
UGH, I'M SO WASTED
WHOA, WEIRD ISLAND.


UH...


'THIS ISLAND IS PRIVATE PROPERTY. ANY ENTRY ONTO THIS ISLAND WILL BE CONSIDERED ILLEGAL TRESPASSING. PLEASE LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.'

'WE WERE MERELY ENTRUSTED WITH THE MAINTE-NANCE OF THIS ISLAND'.
ALL OF US WERE DRINKING ON THE BOAT, AND WE GOT CAUGHT IN THE CURRENTS AND LOST DIRECTION.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT DIRECTION XX HARBOR IS IN?
'NO, WE WERE MERELY ENTRUSTED WITH THE MAINTENANCE OF TH S ISLAND BY THE OWNER'.
YOUR ISLAND ?
'I'M SORRY; WE MUST ASK YOU TO LEAVE IMMEDI-ATELY'.
OH, PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM. HE'S TOTALLY WASTED FROM ALL THE ALCOHOL AND HE'S SEA SICK. YOU WOULDN'T MIND US RESTING HERE FOR A WHILE, WOULD YA?
WHAT THE FUCK, MAN? CAN'T YOU SEE WE'RE IN NEED? WHY WON'T YOU HELP US OUT, MAN?
'I'M SORRY; WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE OWNER'
AND THEN OUR BATTERY WENT OUT, SO WE CAN'T USE OUR WIRE-LESS. I'M SORRY, BUT COULD YOU CONTACT THE MAINLAND FOR US?
2
PLEASE LEAVE THIS TO US, "VICE CHAIR-MAN".
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN OUT IN THE OPEN SEA IN THE FIRST PLACE WITH SUCH A POORLY EQUIPPED BOAT.

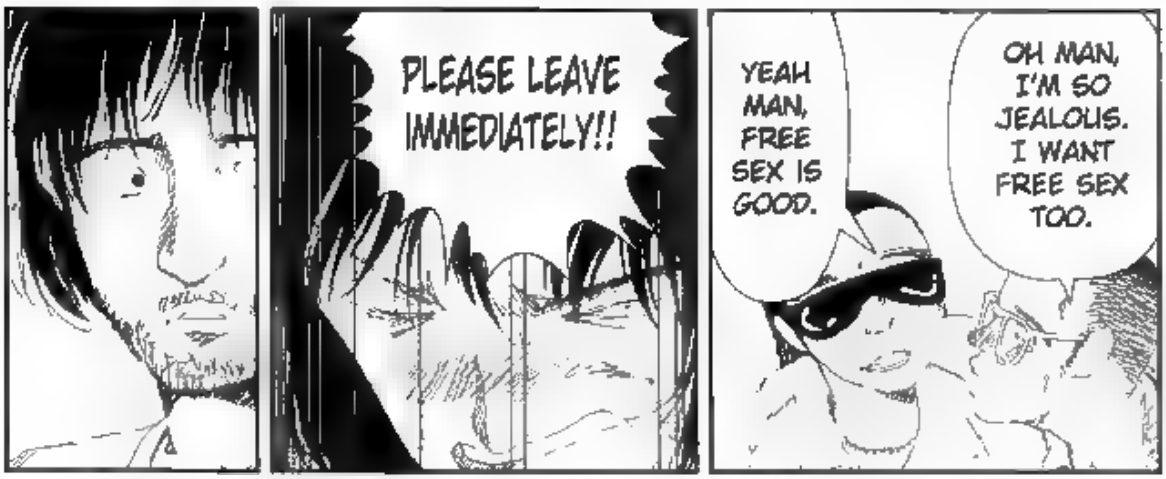
ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE KILLERS TOO?


"I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT. PLEASE LEAVE IMMEDIATELY".
HEY, I KNOW THAT SYMBOL. YOU GUYS ARE FROM THE "SMILEY FACE SOCIETY".
SORRY MAN, THIS GUY IS REALLY DRUNK.

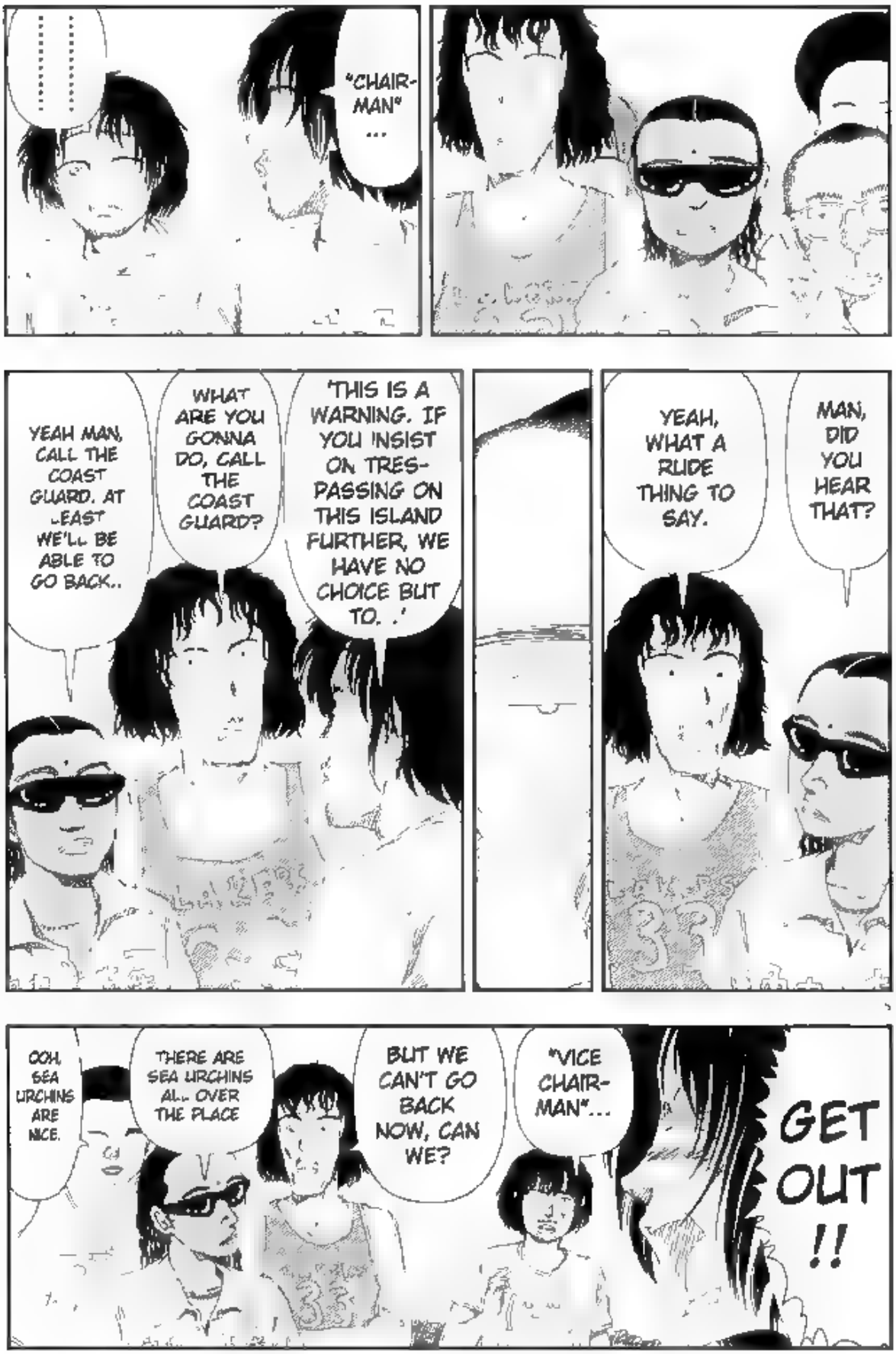
13

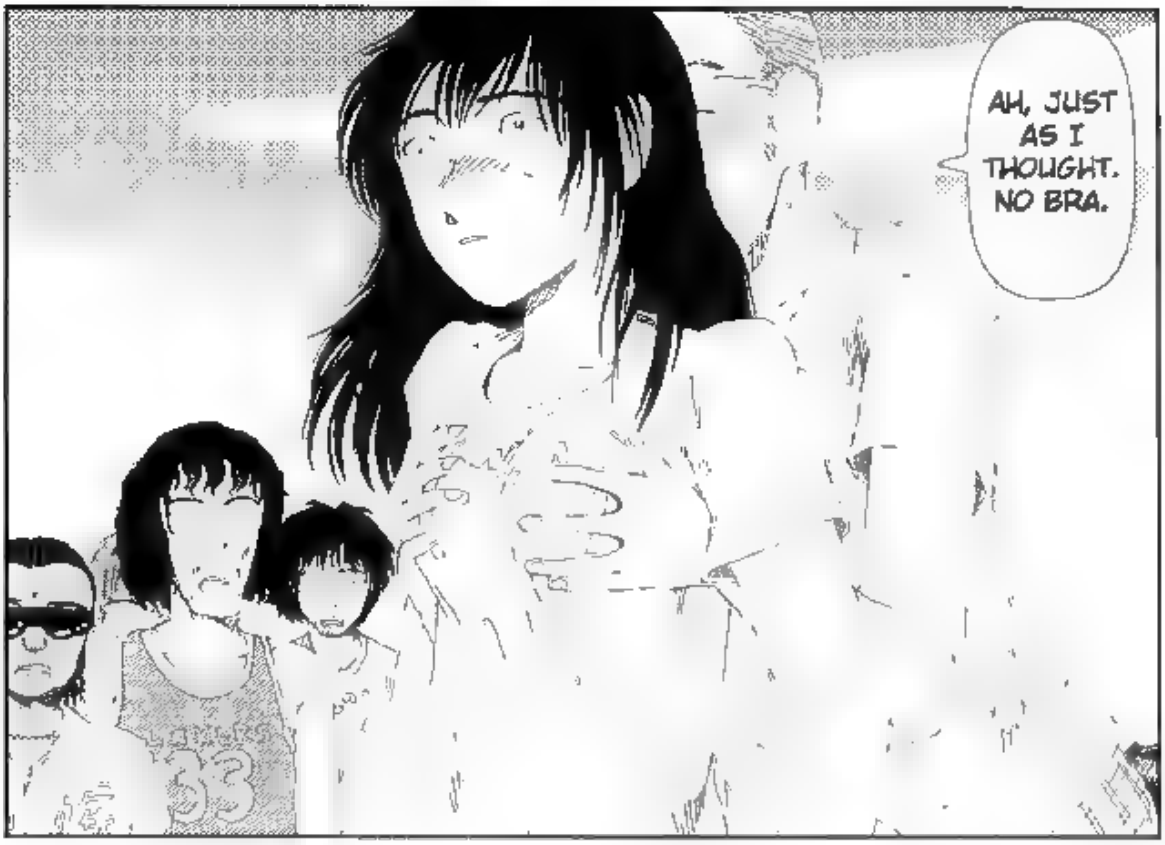
UH-OH, WE'RE IN TROUBLE.
OH YEAH, I SAW IT IN THE NEWS.
HUH?

'THIS IS A WARNING. IF YOU..'
NOW NOW.
HOW RUDE!
I BET YOU GUYS ARE HAVING FREE SEX ON THIS ISLAND. FREE SEX. MAN, THAT'S SO NICE. FREE SEX.


PLEASE LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!!
YEAH MAN, FREE SEX IS GOOD.
OH MAN, I'M SO JEALOUS. I WANT FREE SEX TOO.

GET OUT OF THIS ISLAND NOW!! IT'S SCUM LIKE YOU THAT ARE CONTAMINATING THIS PLANET AND DRIVING ANIMALS INTO EXTINCTION!!
THIS IS NOT A PLACE FOR DIRTY, IGNORANT LOW-LIFES LIKE YOU, WHO HAVE BEEN BRAINWASHED BY THE FILTHY MEDIA TO THE POINT THAT ALL YOU CAN THINK ABOUT IS SEX, SEX, SEX!!

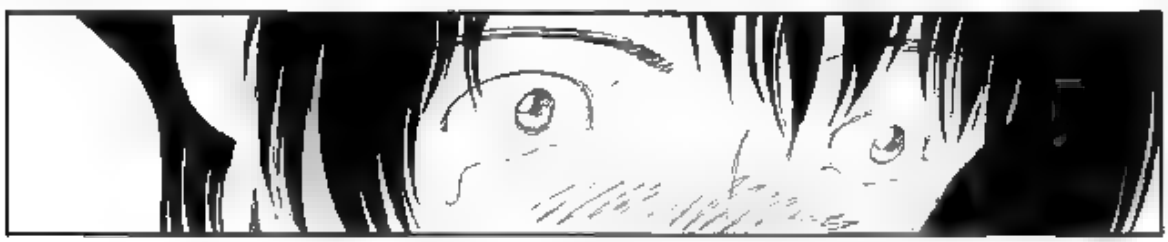

"CHAIR-MAN" ...
MAN, DID YOU HEAR THAT?
YEAH, WHAT A RUDE THING TO SAY.
'THIS IS A WARNING. IF YOU INSIST ON TRES-PASSING ON THIS ISLAND FURTHER, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO. .'
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO, CALL THE COAST GUARD?
YEAH MAN, CALL THE COAST GUARD. AT LEAST WE'LL BE ABLE TO GO BACK..
"VICE CHAIR-MAN"...
BUT WE CAN'T GO BACK NOW, CAN WE?
THERE ARE SEA URCHINS ALL OVER THE PLACE
OOH, SEA URCHINS ARE NICE.
GET OUT !!


AH, JUST AS I THOUGHT. NO BRA.

UGH, YOU STINK! MAN, THIS WOMAN SMELLS.
DON'T TOUCH ME!
くんかくんか

ARE YOU SURE SHE'S NOT WEARING A BRA?
WE'RE SO SORRY.
OH MAN, YOU'RE TOTALLY OUT OF CONTROL, YAMA-CHAN.
LET GO OF HER!!

.6



OH, WHY DON'T WE ALL HAVE A DRINK AND CALM DOWN?
GET OUT! GET OUT NOW!!
AND YET HE REFUSES TO LET GO OF HER.
LIKE THE MEN'S ROOM IN SHIN-JUKU STATION.
LET GO OF HER, YOU #@%&!!
WHAT DOES SHE SMELL LIKE?
HOW MEAN.
OW ...
DON'T TOUCH HER!!

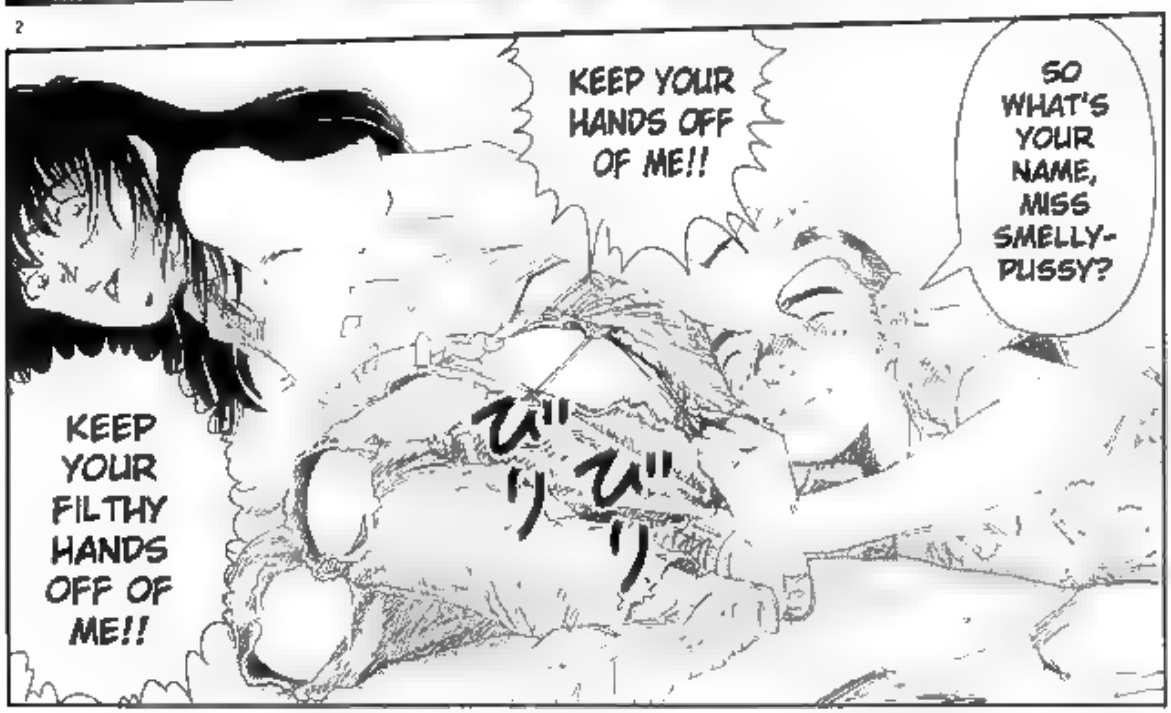
17

AH.
HELP, I'M IN PAIN, I'M SCARED.
ぎりぎりぎり
HEY, WHAT'S IN THIS BOX?
HERE, WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A DRINK?
'PLEASE LEAVE IMMEDIATELY'.
MAYBE IT'S SOMETHING DANGEROUS?
IT SAYS 'HANDLE WITH CARE'.
18
KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF THAT!!

CHAPTER 7
FINAL DISPOSAL

DON'T TOUCH THAT!
DOES THAT MEAN SOMETHING GOOD HAPPENS IF I TOUCH THIS?
OR MAYBE SOME-THING BAD.

2


SO WHAT'S YOUR NAME, MISS SMELLY-PUSSY?
KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF OF ME!!
KEEP YOUR FILTHY HANDS OFF OF ME!!
ひり ひり

DON'T TOUCH THAT!!
OW, MAN.
EH.
I DEMAND THAT YOU STOP THIS INSTANTLY. PERHAPS YOU PEOPLE AREN'T INTERESTED IN ANYTHING OTHER THEN DEBAUCHERY, BUT UNLIKE YOU WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR WORLD AND ARE STRIVING FOR ITS BETTERMENT. HOW CAN YOU TREAT US SO VIOLENTLY?
OH, THE SMELL IS AWFUL. THE SMELL IS SO AWFUL.
WE'RE NOT TREATING ANYONE VIOLENTLY, ARE WE?

"VICE CHAIR-MAN", RUN BACK TO THE "HOUSE"!
HEY, WAIT.
HEY MAN, THAT HURT. YOU MIGHT HAVE BROKEN A BONE. THAT REALLY HURT, MAN.
4
AH.
HANDLE WITH CARE.

GASA
ガサッ
RIP
びりり

BANG
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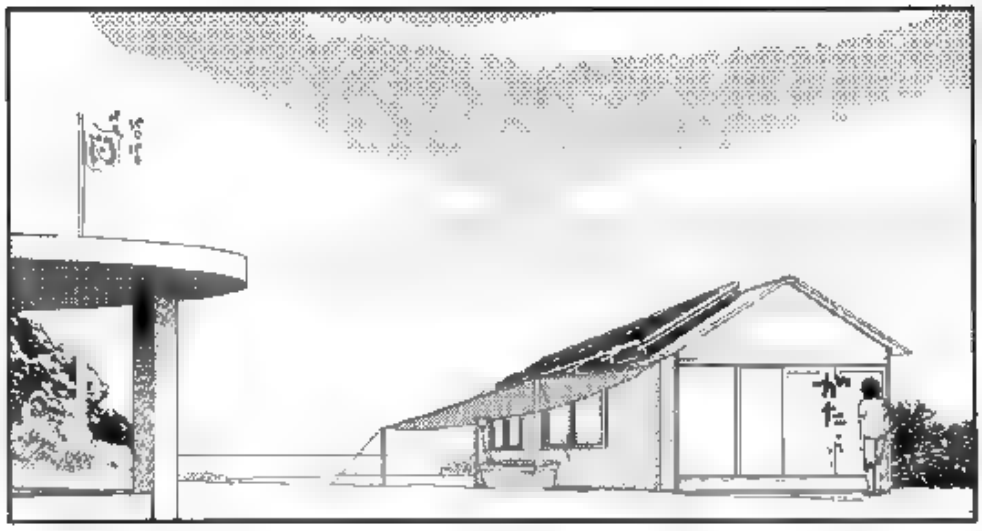
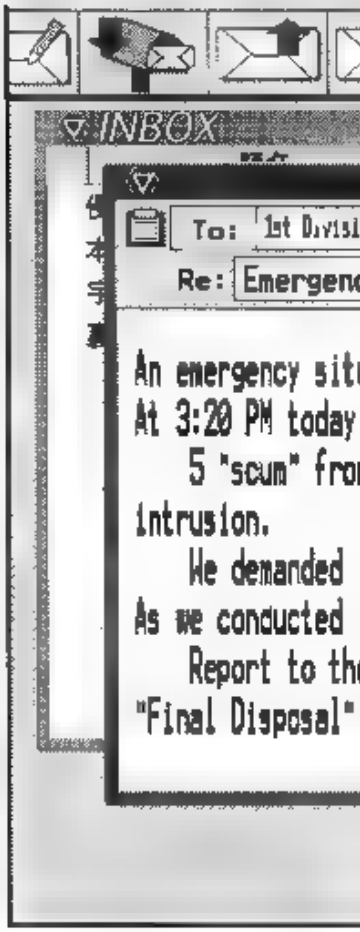


IT'S ME, "OPERATOR". YOU CAN OPEN THE DOOR NOW.

...
EVERY-
THING IS
ALRIGHT
NOW.
OH NO, IT'S
NOT YOUR
FAULT AT ALL.
THOSE PEOPLE
WERE UNBE-
LIEVABLE,
WEREN'T
THEY?
I'M REALLY
SORRY. IT
SEEMS THAT MY
OUTBURST
EXACERBATED
THE SITUATION.
I HAVE TO
SEND AN
EMAIL TO
THE "1ST
DIVISION"
NOW
WHERE
WERE
THOSE
ANTI-
MAGNETIC
APRONS?
WHERE'S
"CHAIR-
MAN"?
HE'S
CLEANING
UP THE
MESS ON
THE
BEACH.

...
EVERY-
THING IS
ALRIGHT
NOW.
WERE YOU
ABLE TO
DRIVE THEM
AWAY?


MAIL
INBOX
To: 1st Divisi
Re: Emergenc
An emergency situ
At 3:20 PM today
5 "scum" fro
intrusion.
We demanded
As we conducted
Report to th
"Final Disposal"

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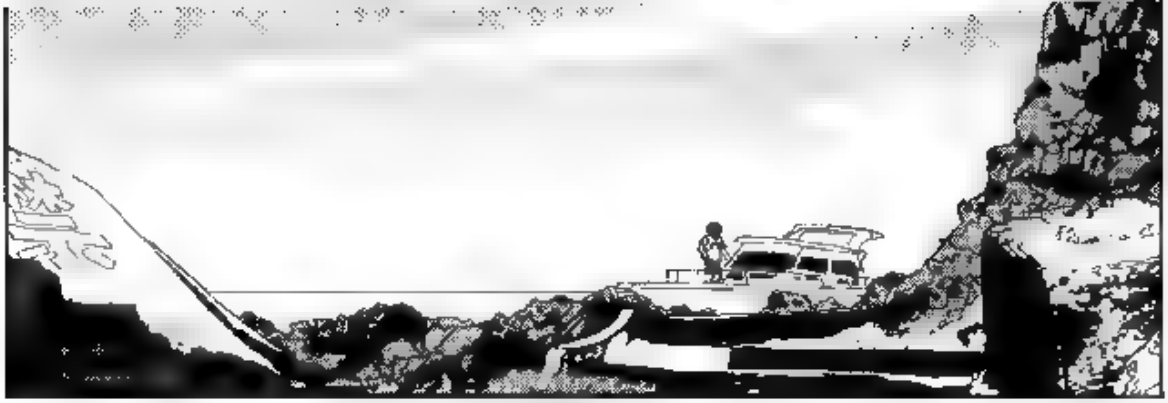
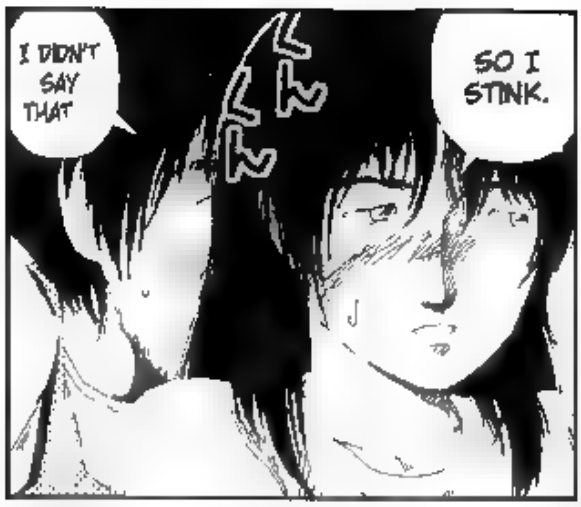
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
WORRY
ABOUT ANY-
THING, "VICE
CHAIRMAN".
EVERYTHING
HAS BEEN
RESOLVED.
THOSE
PEOPLE
HAD
GUNS?

"VICE CHAIRMAN",
THOSE PEOPLE
WERE WORTH-
LESS "SCUM",
ALL OF THEM.
THEY DON'T EVEN
DESERVE TO
EXIST.
THERE'S NO NEED
TO TAKE WHAT
THAT DRUNKARD
SAID AT FACE
VALUE.

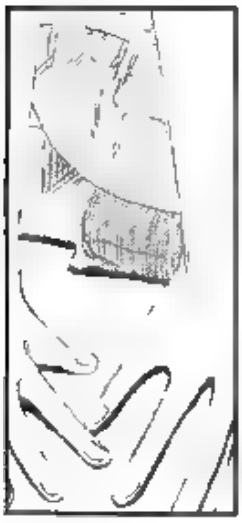
DO I
STINK?



I DON'T KNOW, I MEAN, LET'S FACE IT, WE ALL PROBABLY STINK...
JUST SMELL ME.


I DIDN'T SAY THAT
SO I STINK.

I STINK, RIGHT?
WELL, I'D DESCRIBE IT AS A NOSTALGIC SMELL...



I WITH THE LACK OF RAIN LATELY HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO BATHE AT ALL.
I MUST SMELL HORRIBLE.
AND I HAVEN'T CHANGED MY UNDERWEAR EITHER.

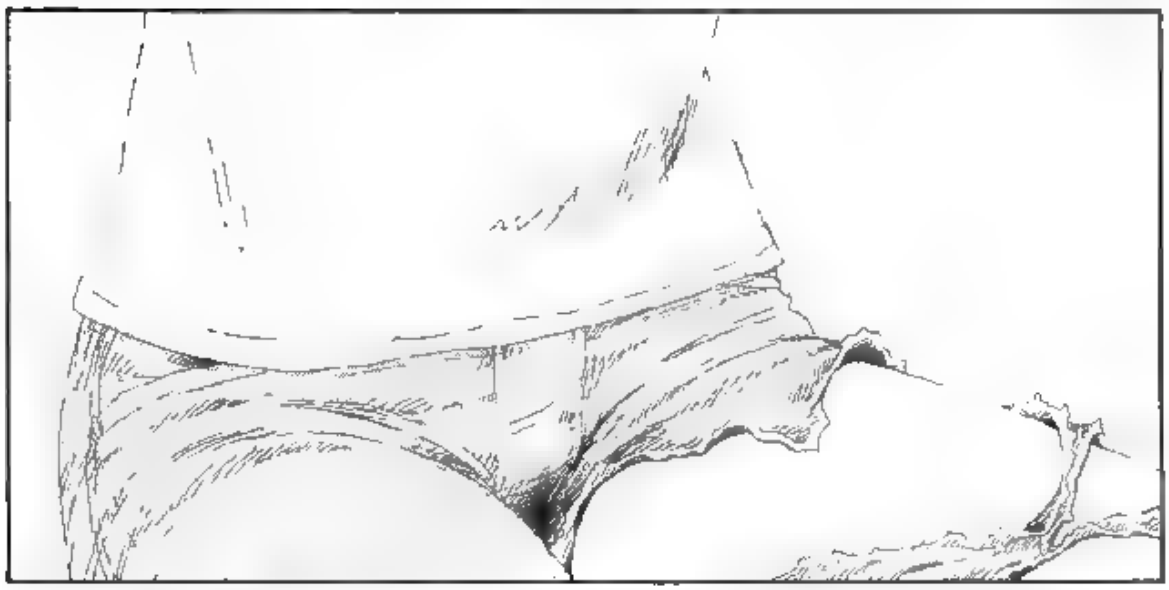
10

YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT SUCH THINGS. A PERSON'S "WORTH" AND "ESSENCE" DOES NOT LIE IN SUCH MATTERS.

I... I MUST TELL THE "TRUTH".
SN FF SNIFF SN FF SN FP SN FF

I FELT A SURGE OF "PLEASURE"
WHEN THAT MAN HELD ME...

...SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT THERE WAS A "SECRETION" OF "BODILY FLUIDS" FROM YOUR "EXTERNAL GENITALIA"?
...MY VAGINA GOT WET
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? COULD YOU EXPLAIN...



12

CAN YOU "CONFESS" THAT IN FRONT OF "CHAIR-MAN"?
WHAT ?
HOW HUMILI-ATING ...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT I FELT "SEXUAL EXCITEMENT" FROM BEING NEARLY RAPED BY THAT "SCUM".
I'M SCUM, JUST LIKE THEM.

43

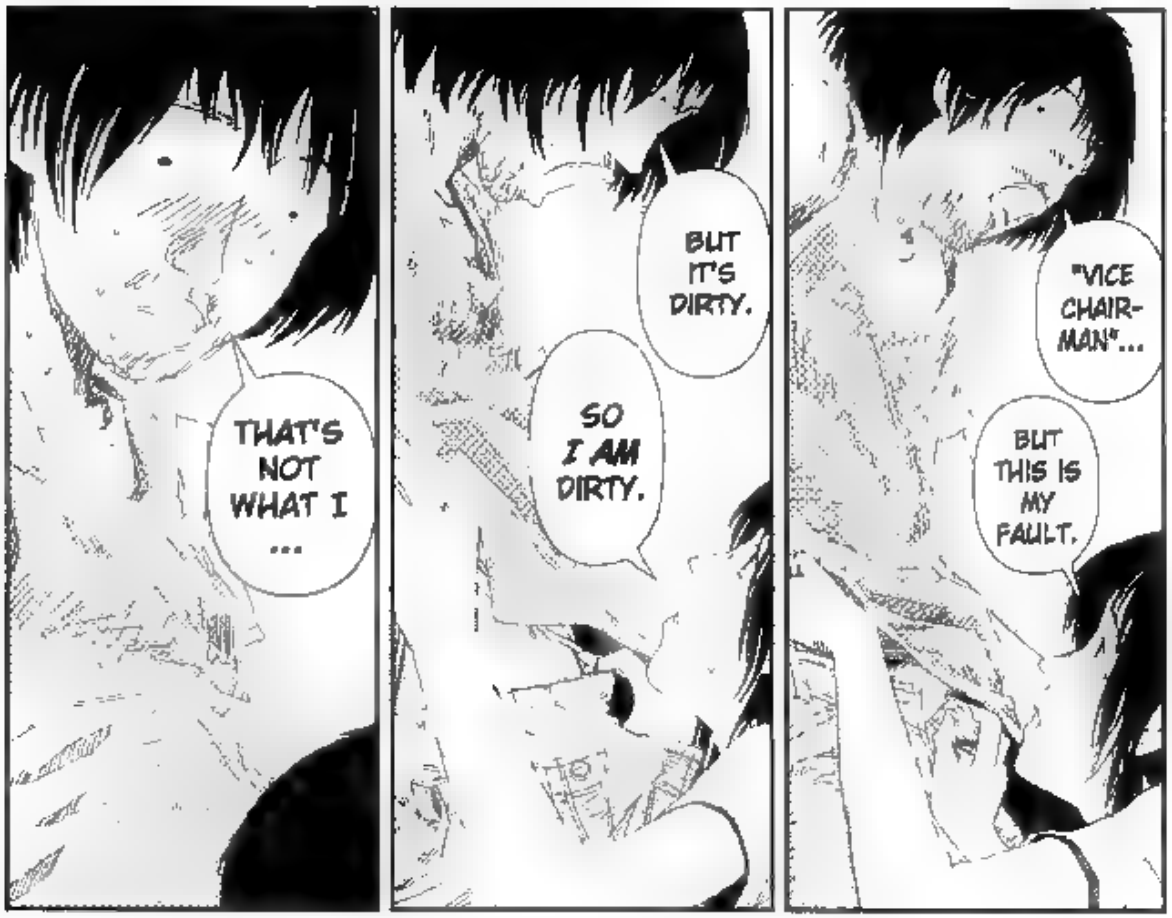
WE CAN ONLY BE "RELEASED" AFTER WE HAVE DISCLOSED OUR "SECRETS" IN FRONT OF "EVERYONE".
IT'S ONLY THE TWO OF US THAT HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF THIS "SECRET" AT PRESENT. THAT IS NOT GOOD.

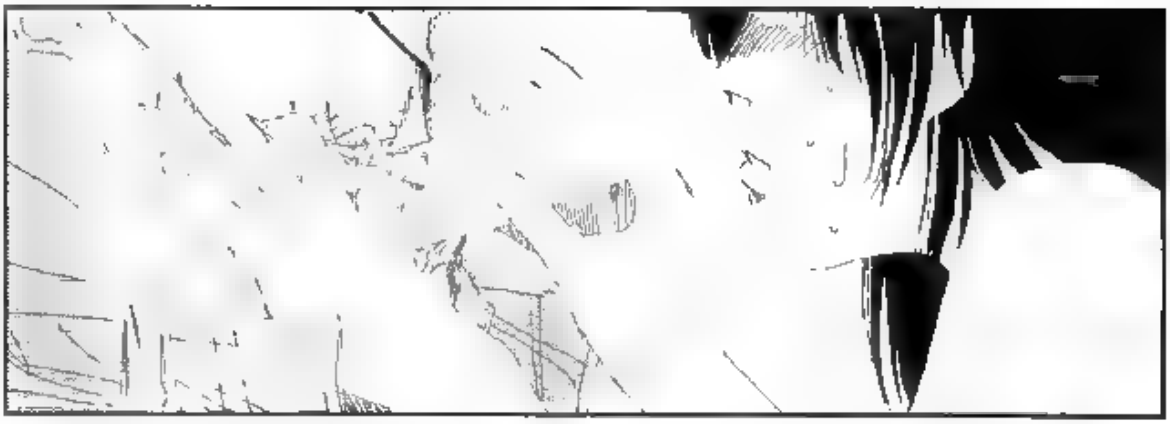
...I HAVE A CONFESSION TO MAKE AS WELL.
WE MUST "CONFESS" EVERY-THING IN FRONT OF "CHAIRMAN"
WHAT ?

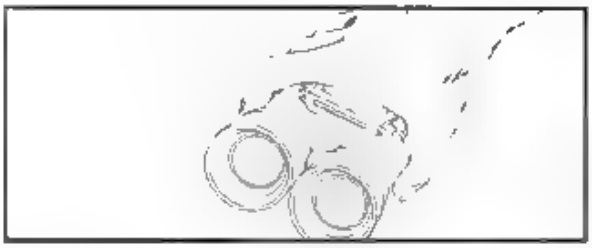
...I
TOO AM
"SCUM"
!!

IT'S MY FAULT, ISN'T IT?

16


THAT'S NOT WHAT I ...
SO I AM DIRTY.
BUT IT'S DIRTY.
"VICE CHAIR-MAN"...
BUT THIS IS MY FAULT.





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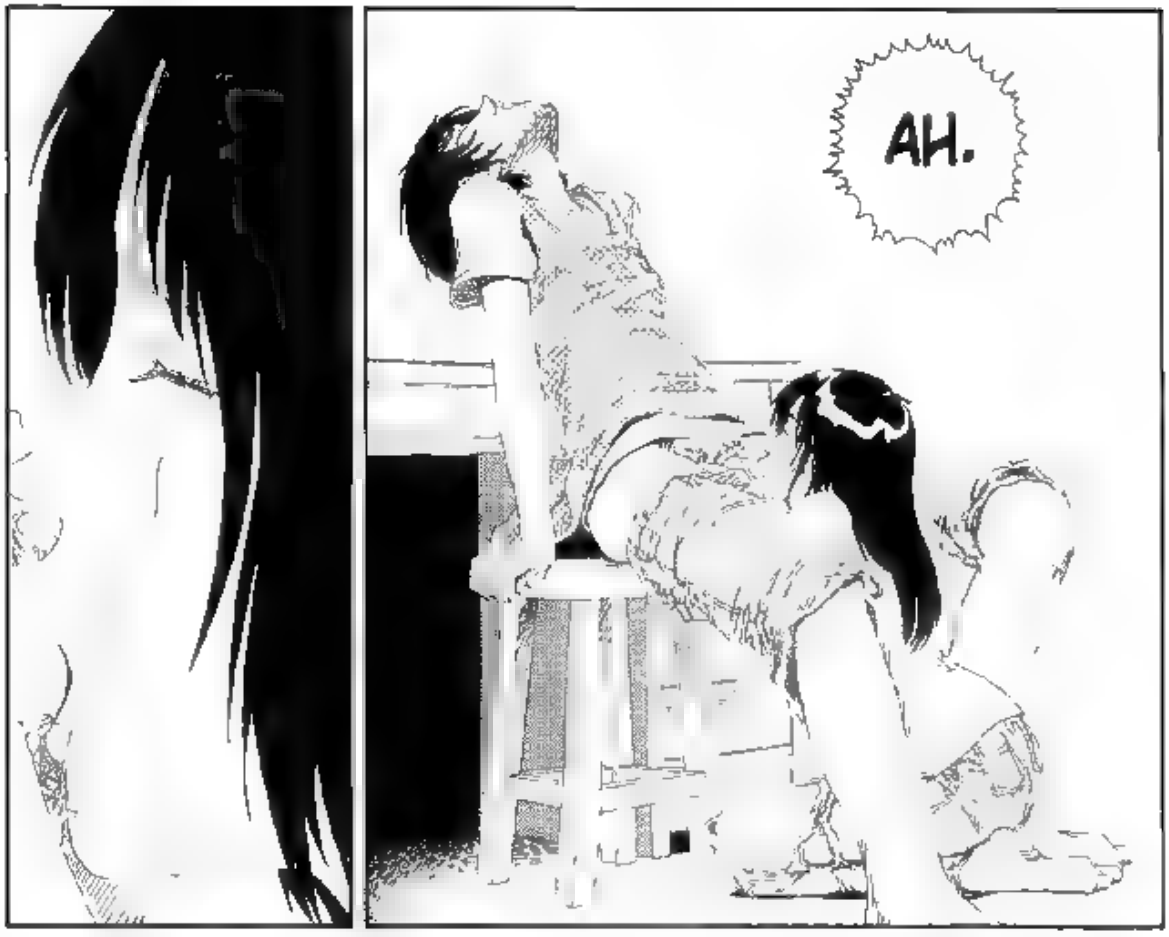
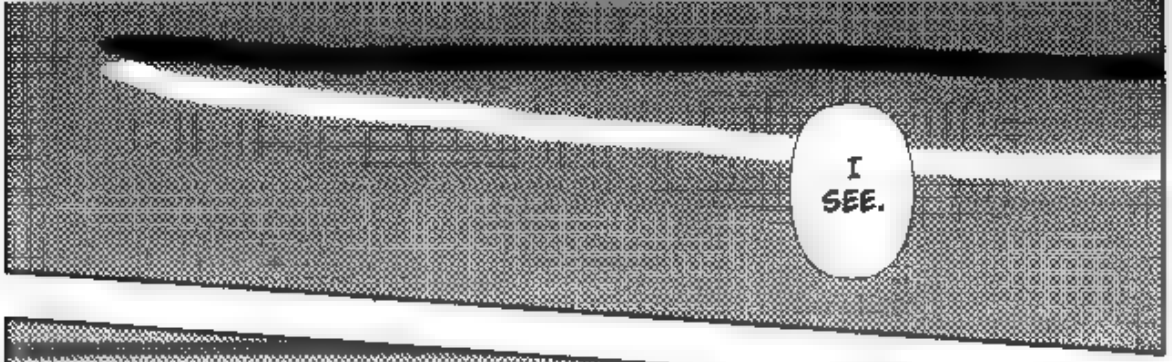
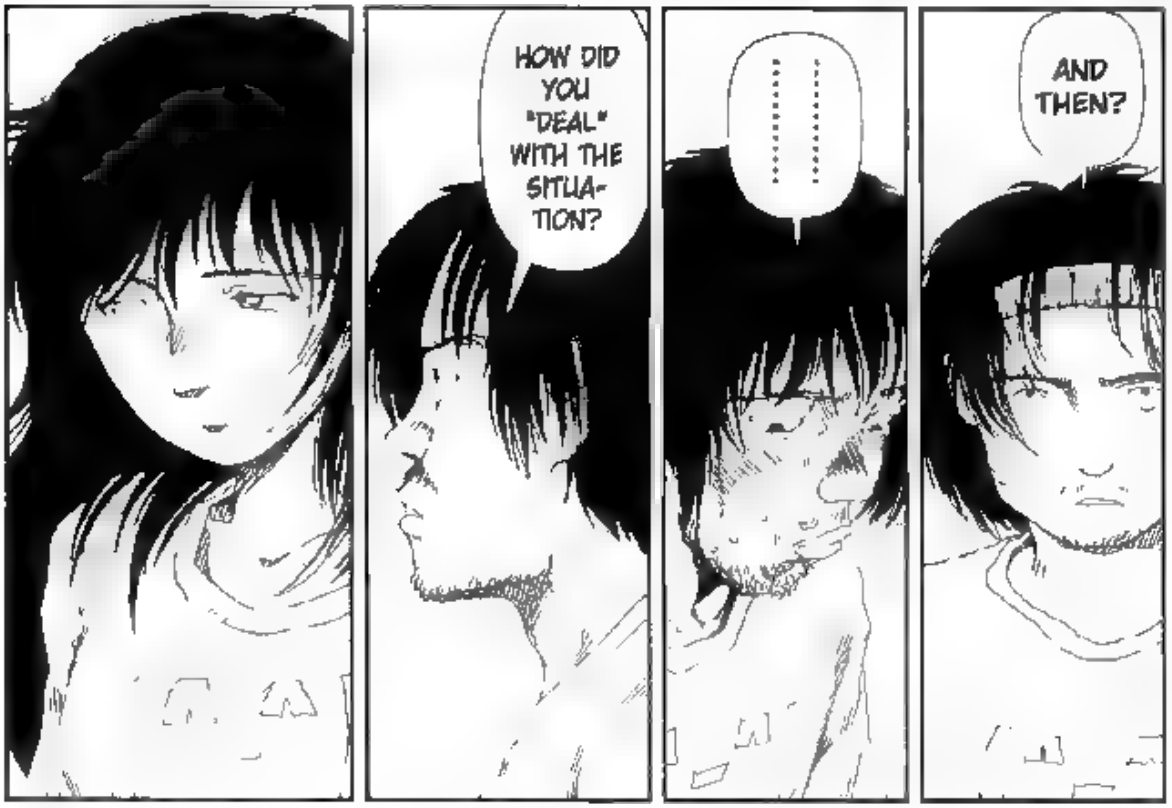
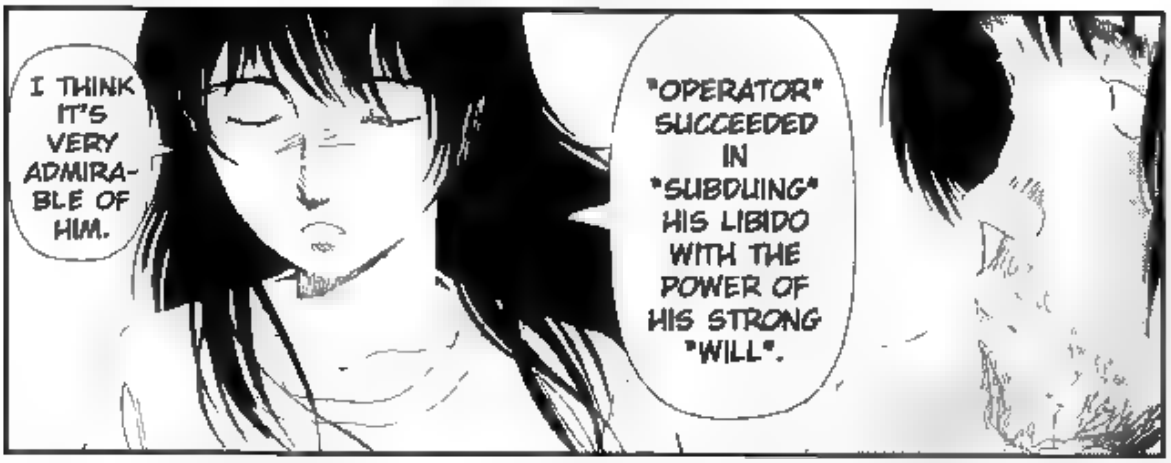

AH.


I SEE.

SO YOU FELT "SEXUAL" AFTER YOU HEARD "VICE CHAIRMAN" MAKE HER CONFESSION.
YES, I'M SORRY ...

21


HOW DID YOU "DEAL" WITH THE SITUA-TION?
.....
AND THEN?

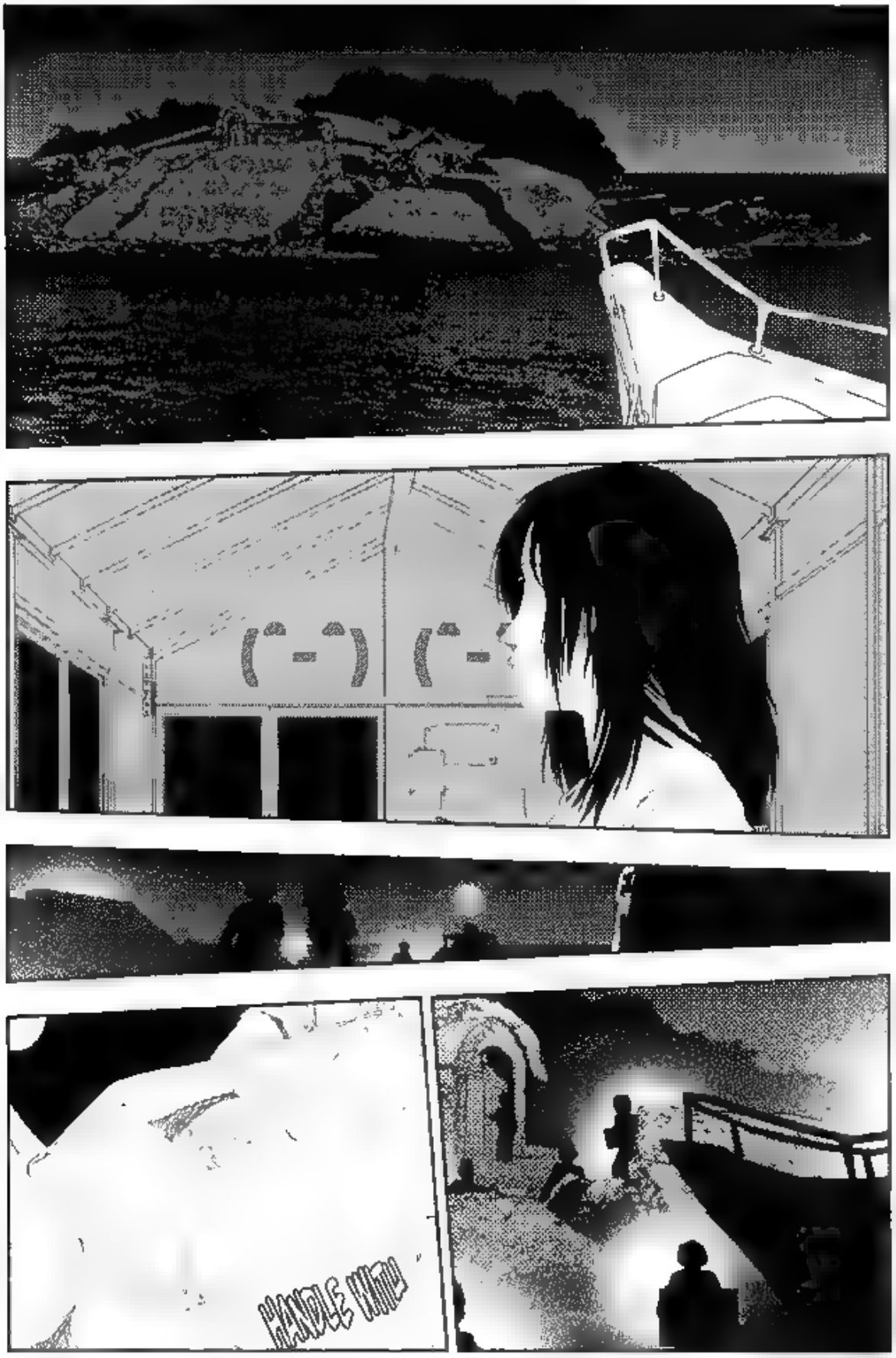

I THINK IT'S VERY ADMIRA-BLE OF HIM.
"OPERATOR" SUCCEEDED IN "SUBDUING" HIS LIBIDO WITH THE POWER OF HIS STRONG "WILL".

... YES.
IS THAT TRUE?

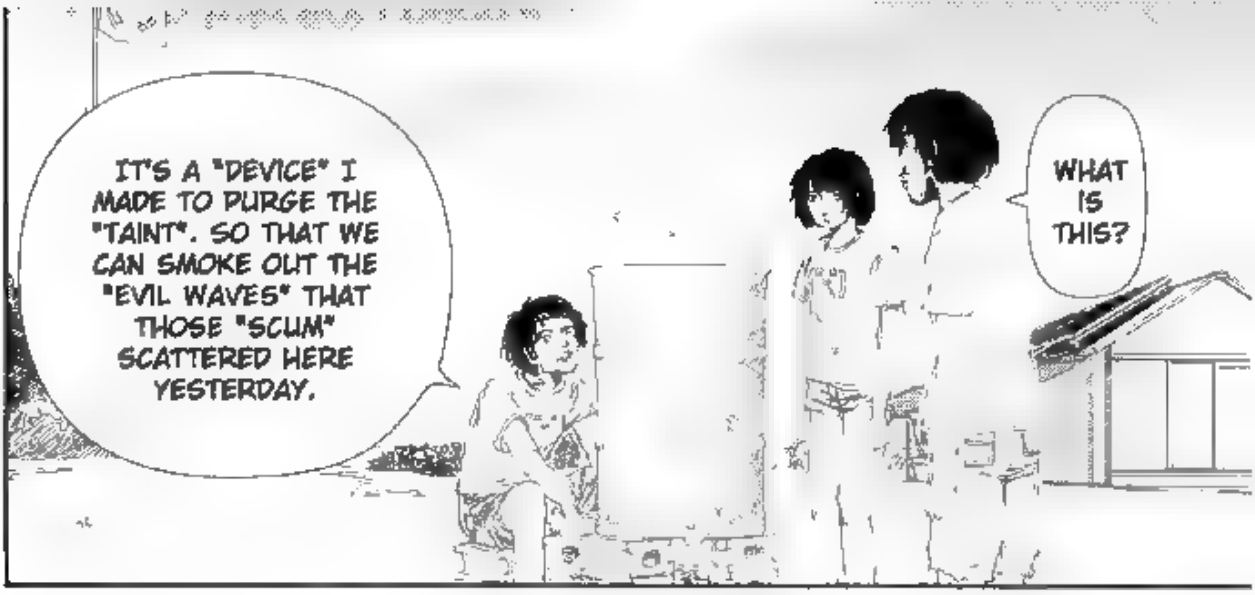
IT SEEMS THAT THE INTRUSION OF THOSE "SCUM" HAS "TAINTED" US ALL.

22

WE MUST FIND A WAY TO RID OURSELVES OF THIS "TAINT" ASAP.


("-^) ("-
HANDLE WITH

I CUT MY HAIR.
AND MY PANTS TOO THEY WERE HALF RIPPED, SO I MIGHT AS WELL GET RID OF THE OTHER HALF RIGHT?


IT'S A "DEVICE" I MADE TO PURGE THE "TAINT". SO THAT WE CAN SMOKE OUT THE "EVIL WAVES" THAT THOSE "SCUM" SCATTERED HERE YESTERDAY.
WHAT IS THIS?

OH, ALL RIGHT.
WHY DON'T YOU GO FIRST THEN?

NAH, WE SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT.
WON'T WE BURN OUR-SELVES?

Evil wave
A drum floats to the beach
Spark
How the evil-wave purging device works
Scaffold
Bloom
Dried grass

IT'S DIFFICULT TO BREATHE, AND MY EYES ARE GETTING WATERY, BUT THAT ONLY PROVES THAT THE "EVIL WAVES" WITHIN MY BODY ARE WRITHING IN PAIN AS THEY TRY TO GET OUT. IF YOU THINK OF IT THAT WAY, YOU MIGHT EVEN SAY THAT IT FEELS NICE IN HERE.
FROM ANCIENT TIMES, IS HAS BEEN BELIEVED THAT SMOKE HAS THE POWER TO WARD OFF EVIL. THE INCENSE STICKS USED IN BUDDHISM, FOR INSTANCE.

4

THE SCAF-FOLD BROKE
WHAT HAP-PENED?

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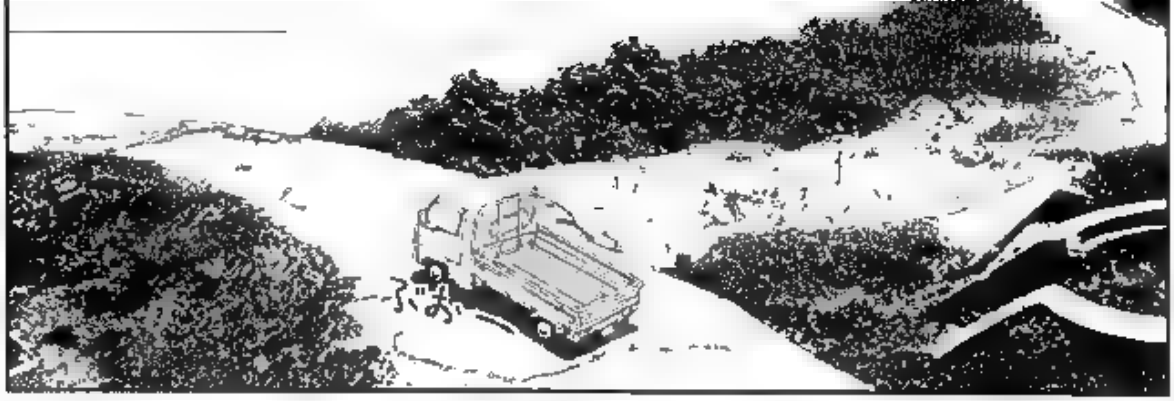
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YOU SHOULD REST HERE FOR A WHILE. WE DON'T WANT TO TAKE ANY CHANCES. THE TWO OF US WILL GO TO THE BEACH.
OKAY, I'LL DO THAT.
DON'T WORRY; IT'S JUST A MINOR BURN. I'LL BE FINE.
BUT THE BURN COULD FESTER.

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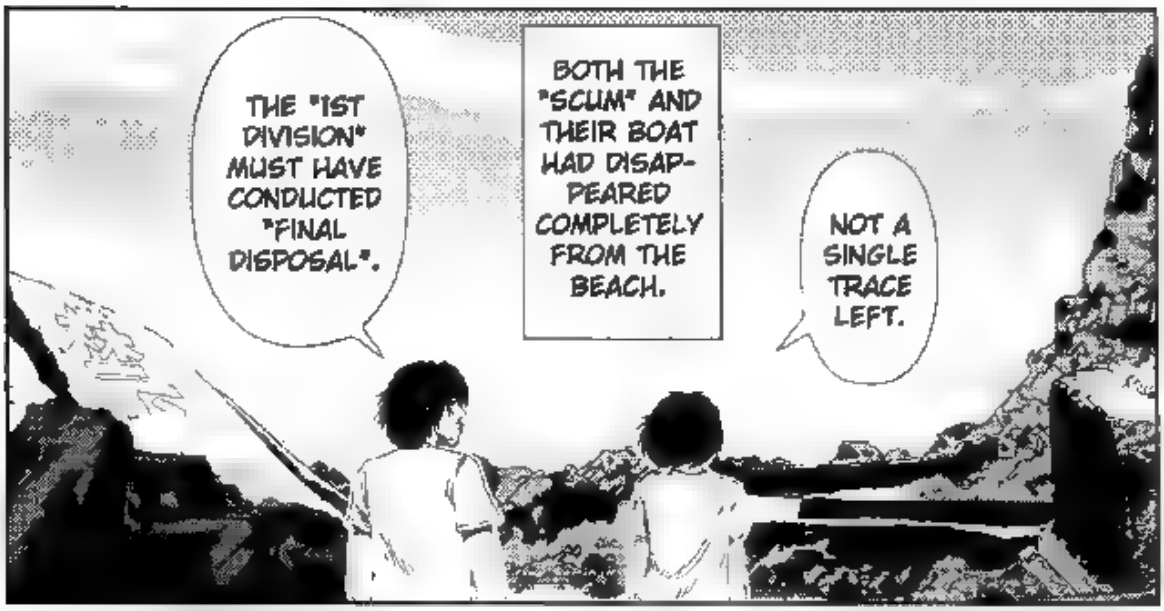
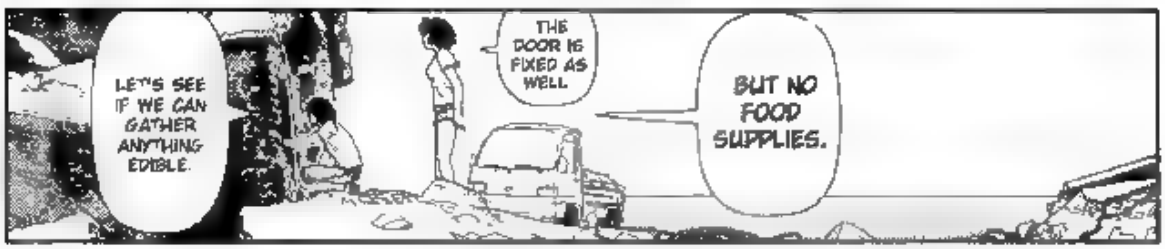

THE "1ST DIVISION" MUST HAVE CONDUCTED "FINAL DISPOSAL".
BOTH THE "SCUM" AND THEIR BOAT HAD DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY FROM THE BEACH.
NOT A SINGLE TRACE LEFT.


LET'S SEE IF WE CAN GATHER ANYTHING EDIBLE.
THE DOOR IS FIXED AS WELL.
BUT NO FOOD SUPPLIES.

I SUPPOSE.
CUTTING OFF YOUR HAIR... DOES THAT SYMBOLIZE THE REMOVAL OF THE "TAINT"?

6

OH, LET'S NOT WORRY ABOUT SUCH TRIVIAL MATTERS.
SHOULDN'T YOU OBTAIN APPROVAL FROM THE "1ST DIVISION" BEFORE...

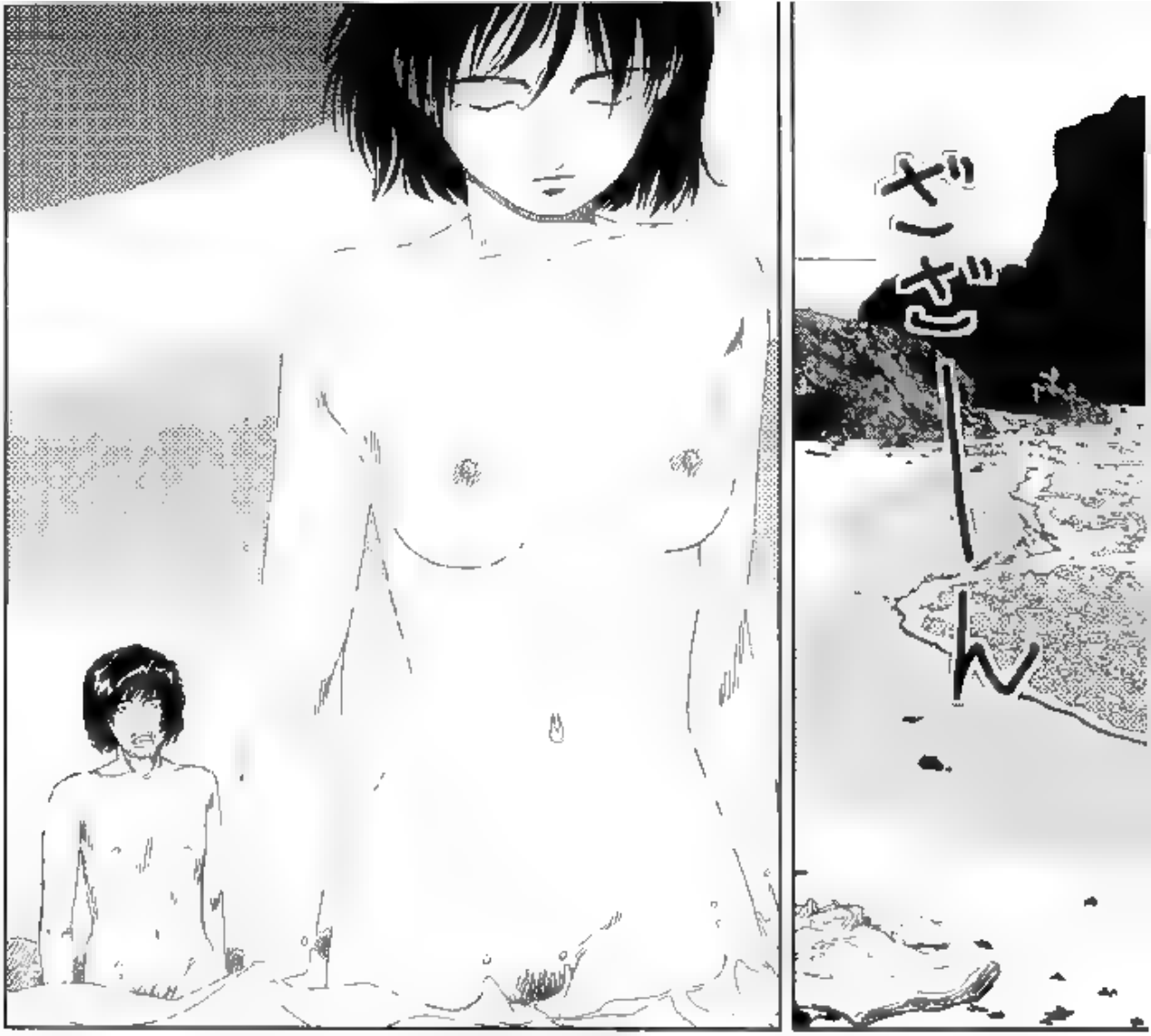
"CHAIRMAN" HAS CHANGED A LITTLE SINCE THE FEVER, DON'T YOU THINK?
YES.

"VICE CHAIR-MAN"...
LET'S JUST SKIP THAT FOR A LITTLE WHILE. "CHAIRMAN" ISN'T HERE, AFTER ALL.
BUT WE HAVE WORK TO DO...
WHY DON'T WE GO OUT FOR A LITTLE SWIM?
ARE YOU STILL WORRIED ABOUT HOW YOU SMELL?
IT'LL BE NICE. I HAVEN'T BATHED FOR A WHILE.
7
BUT IF WE DON'T GATHER FOOD...

EH?

I'VE TAKEN OFF MY CLOTHES.

THERE'S NOTHING YOU SHOULD FEEL EMBAR-RASSED OR GUILTY ABOUT.
WHY IS THERE ANY NEED TO BE EMBAR-RASSED ?
"VICE CHAIR-MAN" ...
...ARE YOU PLAYING AROUND WITH ME?
WHY DON'T YOU COME ON IN?
THE WATER FEELS NICE AND COLD.



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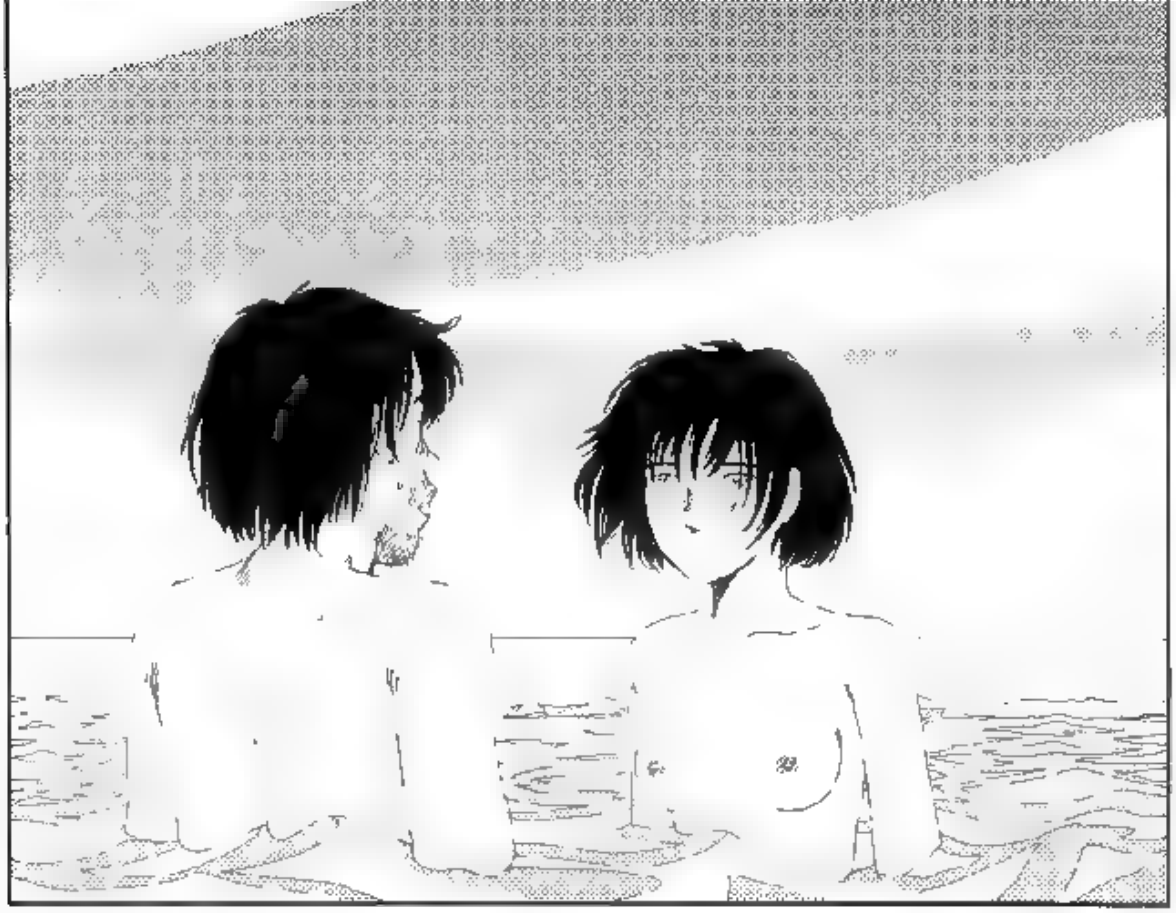
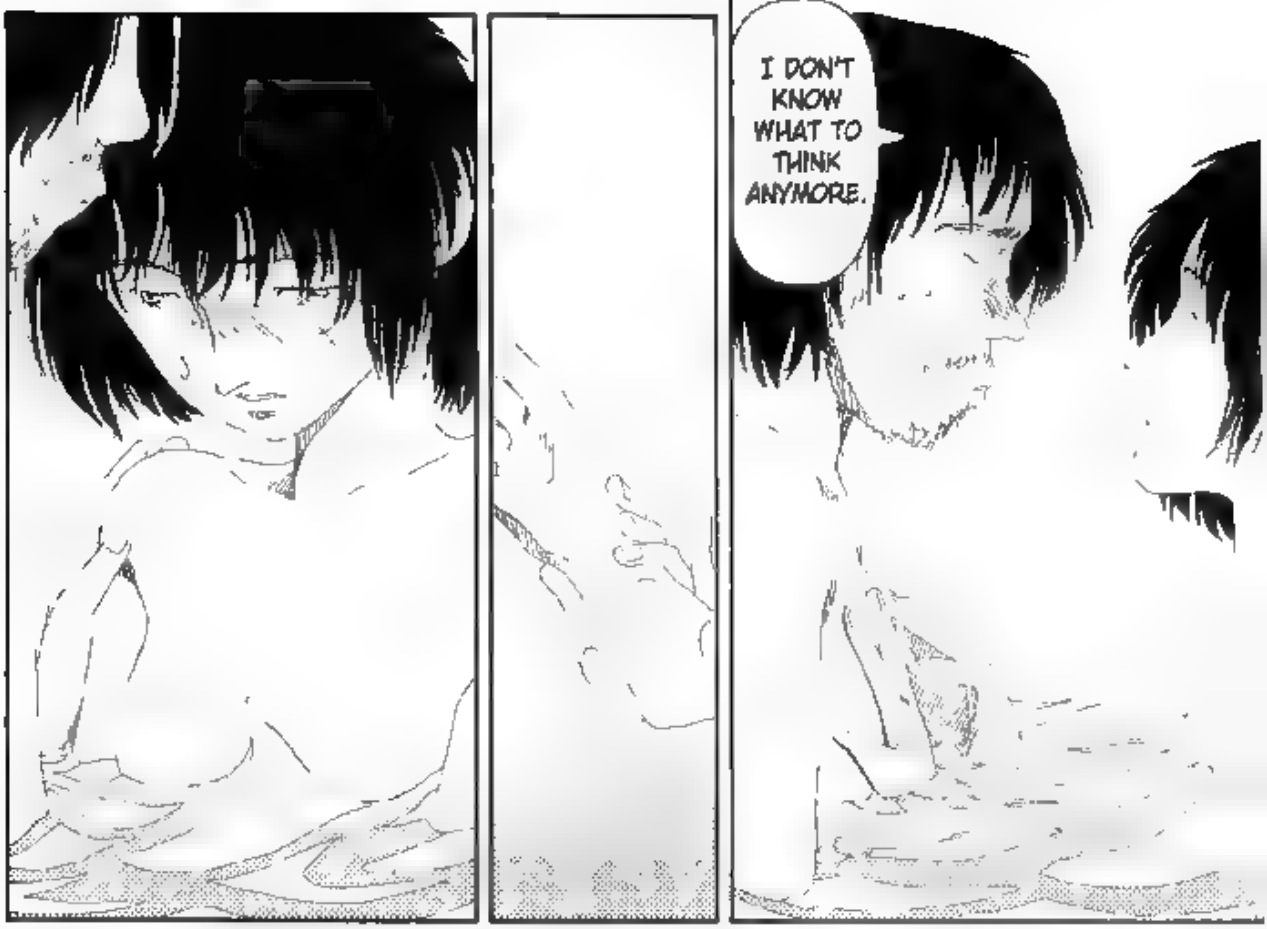


11

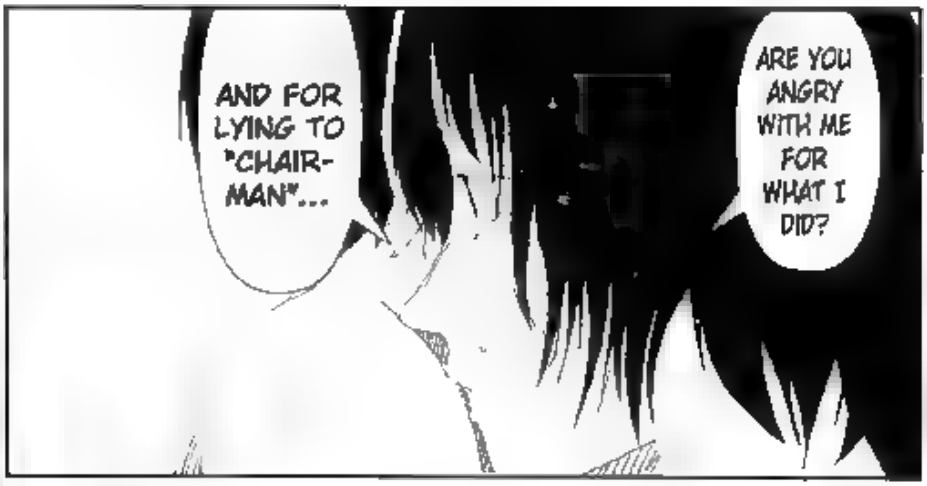
MAY I TOUCH YOUR BODY?
.....
DON'T YOU FEEL ANY GUILT DOING THIS?
ARE WE DIRTY FOR DOING SOME-THING LIKE THIS?


I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK ANYMORE.

12

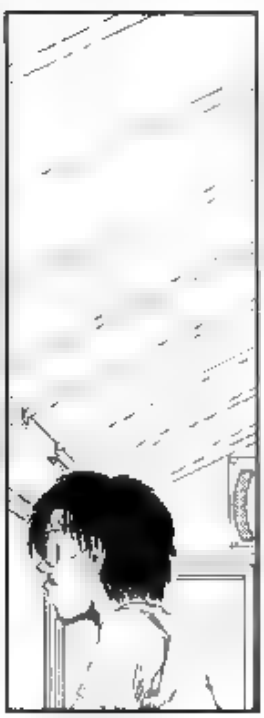
I DON'T KNOW ...
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

WHAT ?
ME TOO.

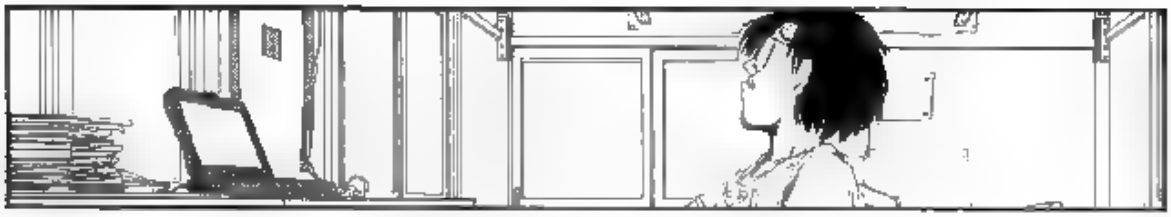

AND FOR LYING TO "CHAIR-MAN"...
ARE YOU ANGRY WITH ME FOR WHAT I DID?

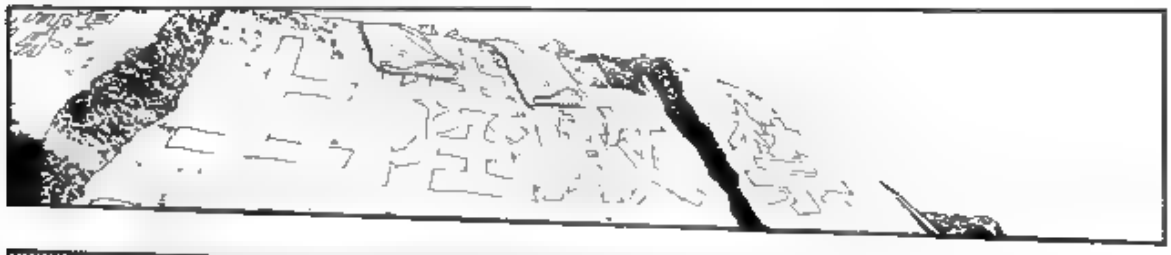
.....
"OPERA-TOR", YOU HAVE AN ERECTION.

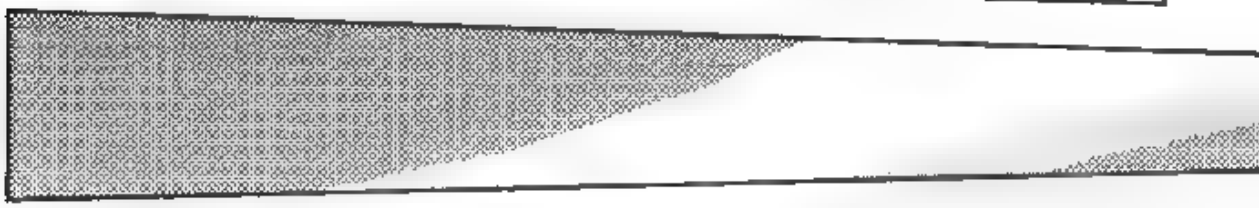
THIS HAS GONE TOO FAR FOR THAT ...



SHOULD WE REPORT THIS TOO?

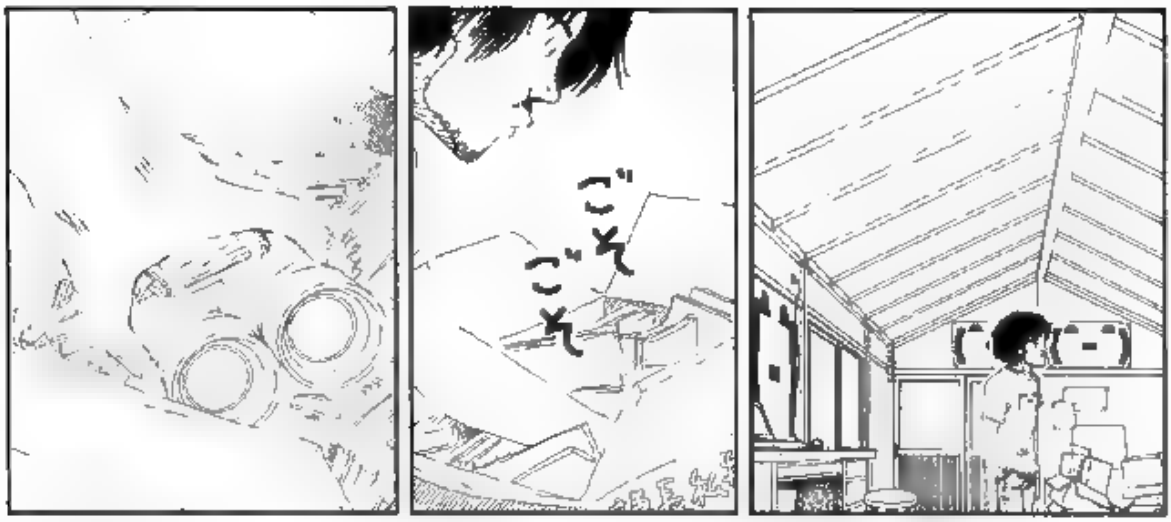






14

LOOK HOW WET I'VE BECOME ...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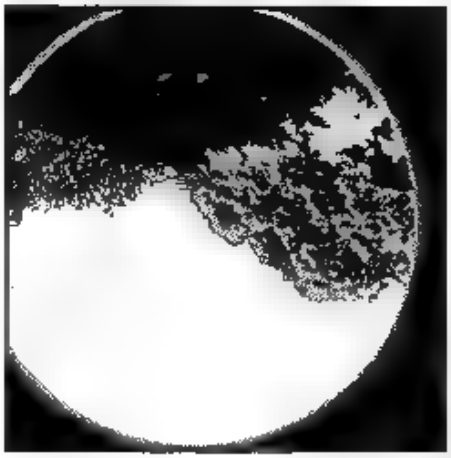
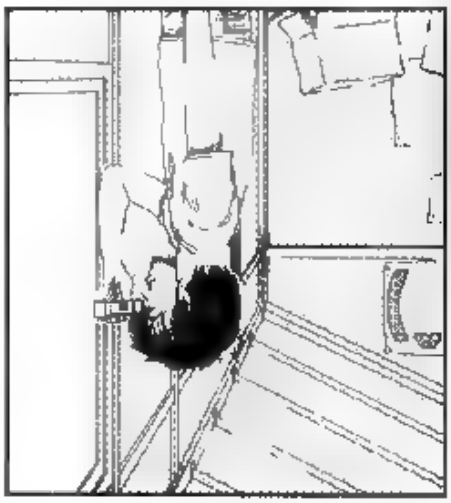
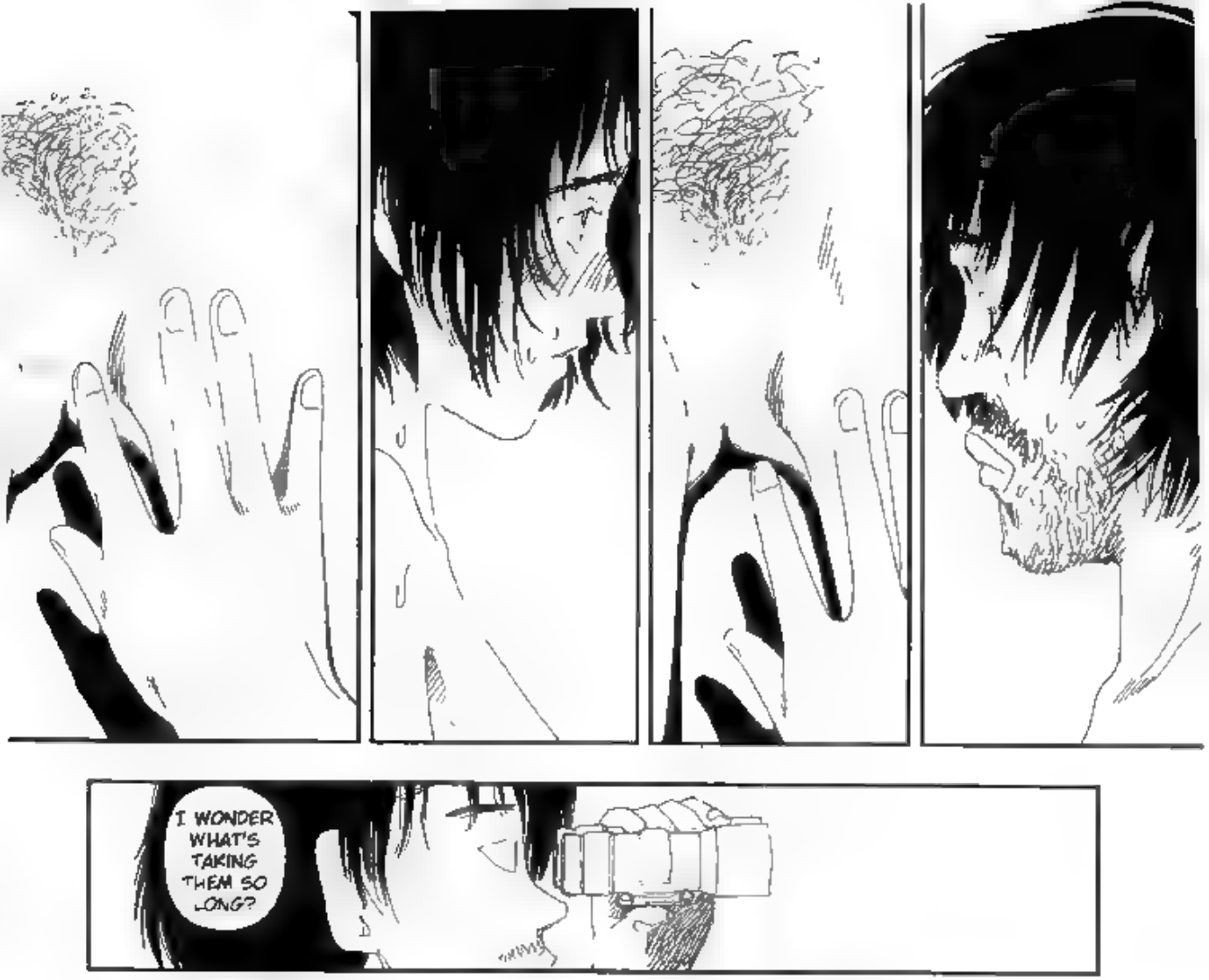
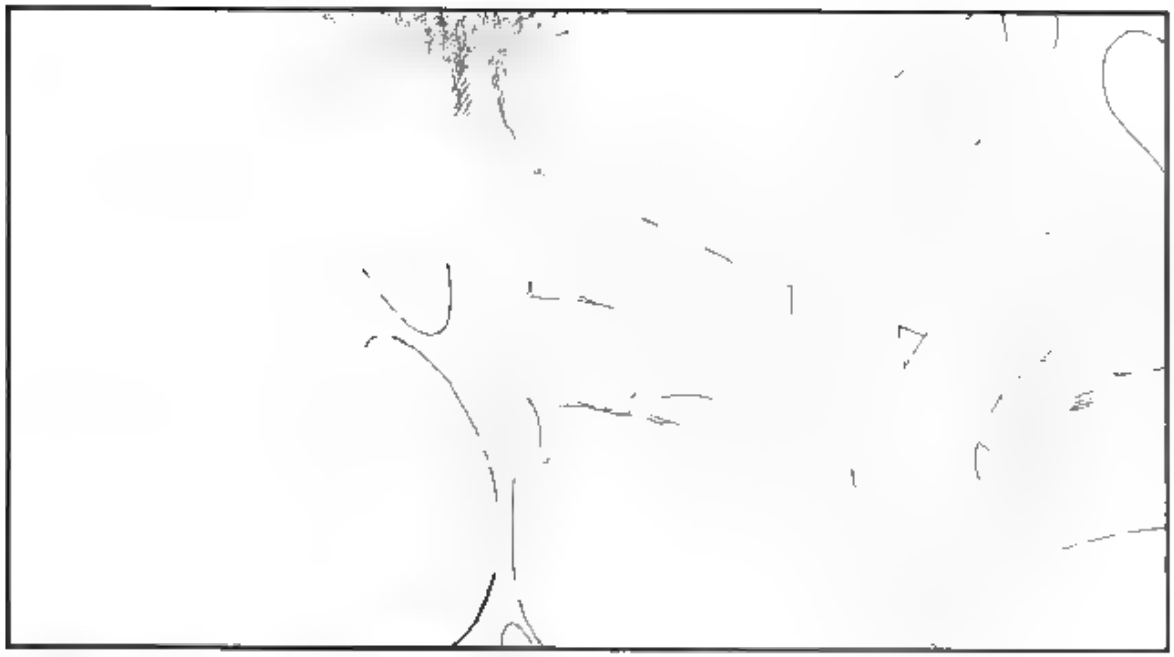






I WONDER WHAT'S TAKING THEM SO LONG?



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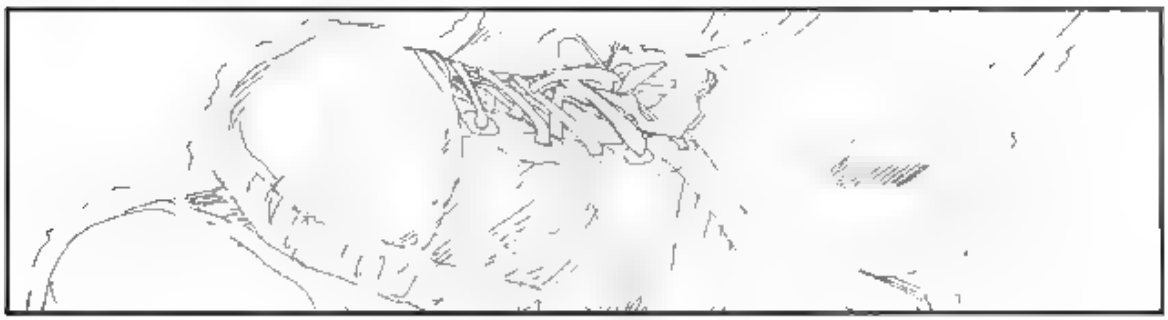
TRANSLATED BY
SUMMER SOLDIER
[redacted]
NATHANIEL GUY
SCANNED EDITED BY
GATSU

CHAPTER 9
BINOCULARS

2



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3

UMPH.
UH.

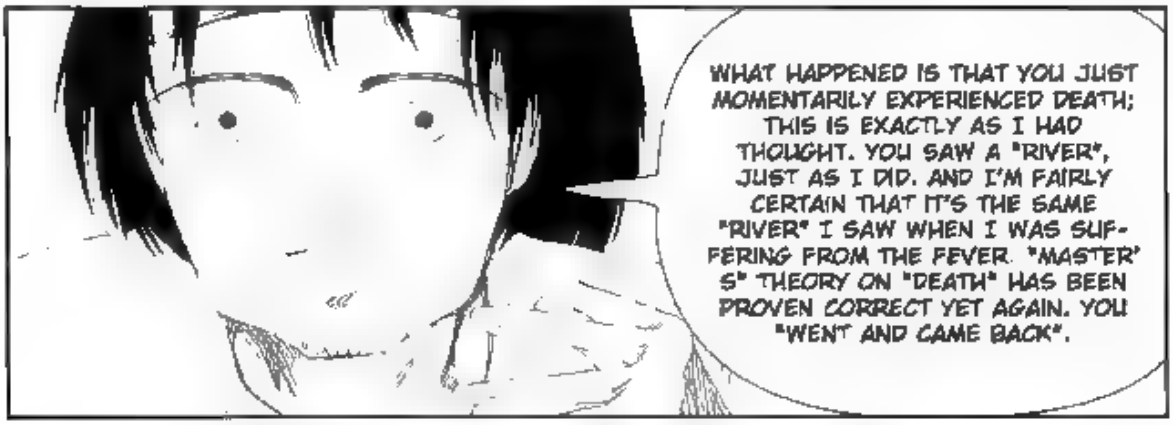
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
YES, THANK YOU...
NGH.

...I THINK I SAW SOMETHING DIMLY...
DID YOU SEE ANYTHING WHILE YOU WERE "UNCONSCIOUS"?

4

DID YOU SEE A "RIVER"?

YES, I WAS RIGHT. EVERYONE SEES A "RIVER".
NOW THAT YOU'VE SAID THAT, I'M STARTING TO THINK THAT MAYBE IT WAS A "RIVER"...


WHAT HAPPENED IS THAT YOU JUST MOMENTARILY EXPERIENCED DEATH; THIS IS EXACTLY AS I HAD THOUGHT. YOU SAW A "RIVER", JUST AS I DID. AND I'M FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT IT'S THE SAME "RIVER" I SAW WHEN I WAS SUFFERING FROM THE FEVER. "MASTER'S" THEORY ON "DEATH" HAS BEEN PROVEN CORRECT YET AGAIN. YOU "WENT AND CAME BACK".

UH.
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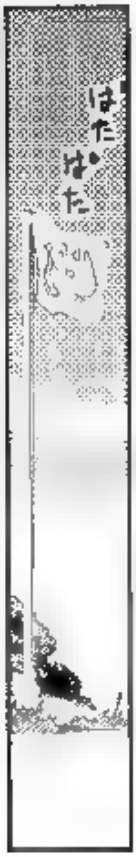
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SO UM, THE EXPERIMENT WORKED.
I SEE ...

YOU'RE UP NEXT, "OPERATOR".

MMM?
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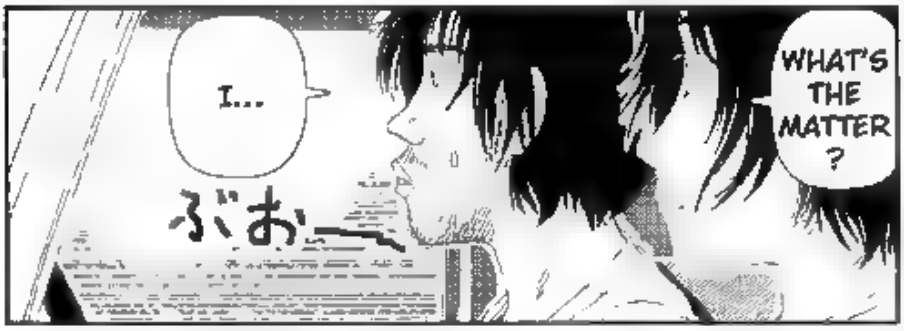
I...
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WHAT'S THE MATTER?

6

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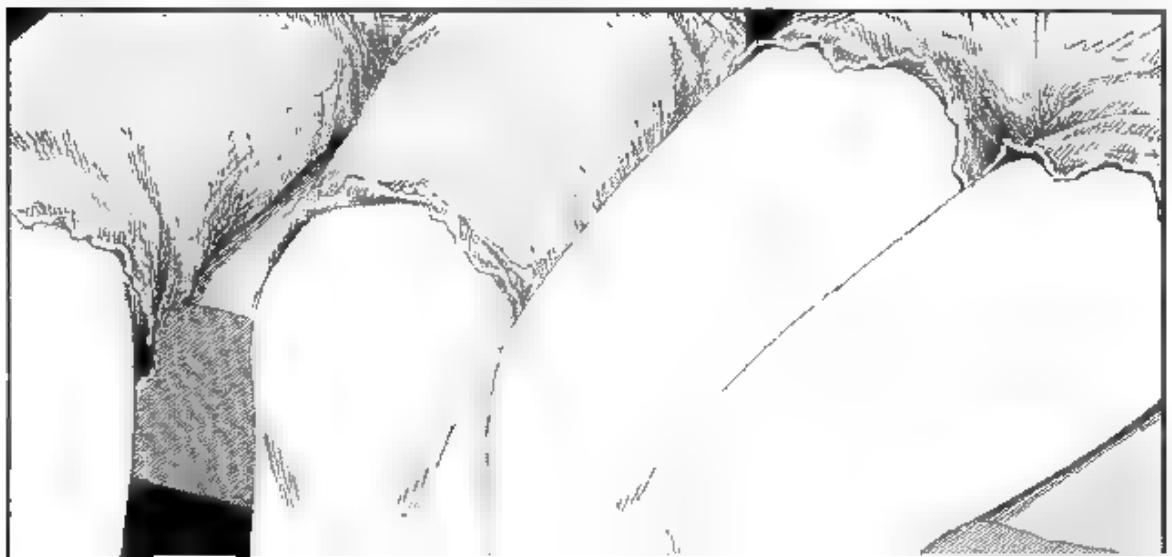
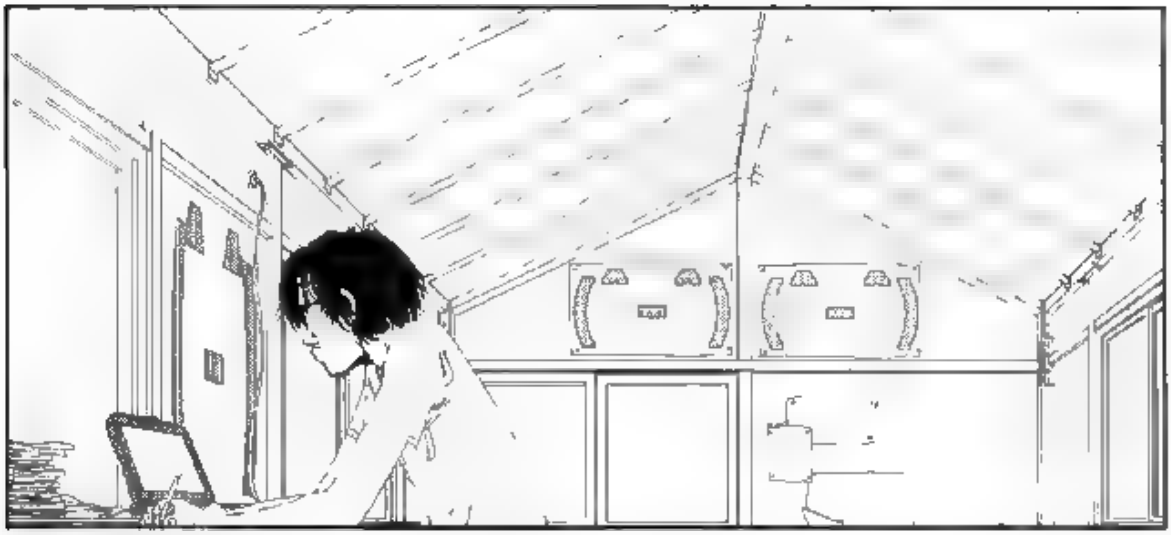
OH REALLY? I THINK I'LL DO THAT THEN.
I THINK YOU SHOULD CONCEN-TRATE ON RECORDING YOUR "EPIC DREAM" FOR NOW.

NAH, NO NEED FOR THAT. MY FOOT IS ALMOST HEALED.
"CHAIRMAN", YOU SHOULD REST IN THE "HOUSE". THE TWO OF US WILL MANAGE.

...I'M NOT SURE IF IT'S JUST THAT.
PERHAPS YOU LOST THE MEMORY WHEN YOU FELL "UNCONSCIOUS" EARLIER TODAY.
NOT AT ALL.
YOU DON'T REMEMBER IT?
I'M NOT SURE IF I UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF, BUT...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?





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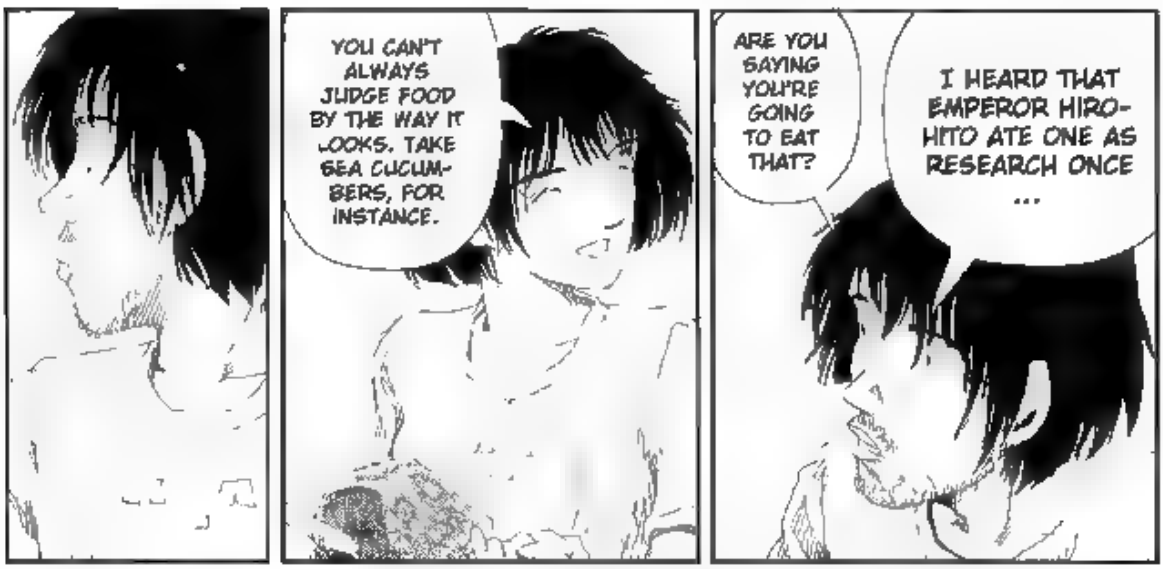
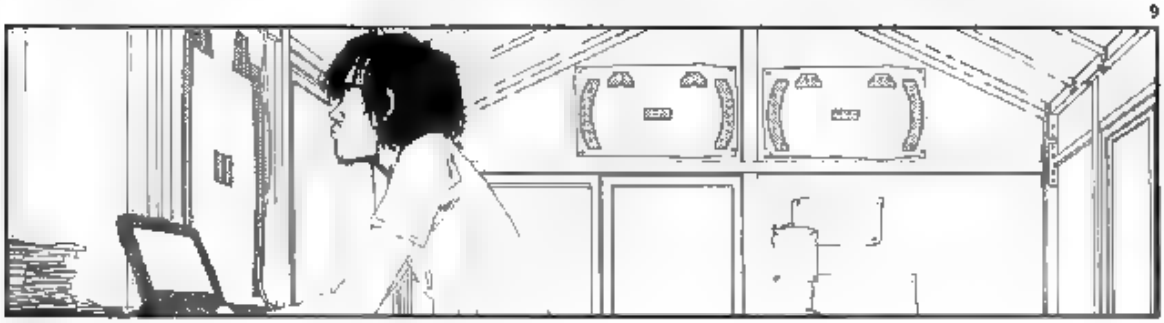
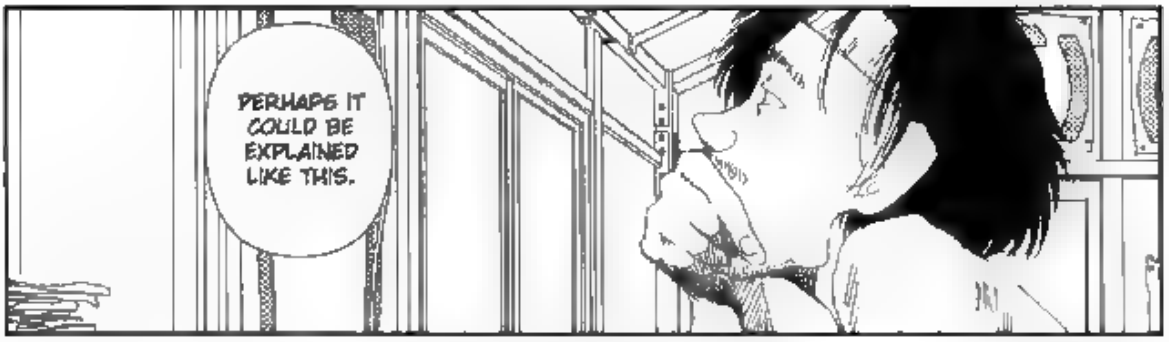
WOW, THIS IS PRETTY LARGE.

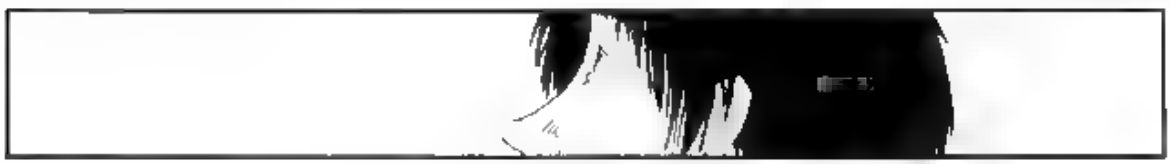
DO YOU KNOW IF IT'S EDIBLE?
IT'S A SEA SLUG. WHERE I GREW UP, THEY WERE CALLED SEA MICE.


YOU CAN'T ALWAYS JUDGE FOOD BY THE WAY IT LOOKS. TAKE SEA CUCUMBERS, FOR INSTANCE.
ARE YOU SAYING YOU'RE GOING TO EAT THAT?
I HEARD THAT EMPEROR HIROHITO ATE ONE AS RESEARCH ONCE ...




PERHAPS IT COULD BE EXPLAINED LIKE THIS.

BUT FROM THE FACT THAT THEY CONTAIN "SECRETS" THAT THE POWERS THAT BE WISH TO KEEP THE MASSES UNINFORMED ABOUT.
PERHAPS THE FAILURE OF YOUR NOVELS TO WIN ANY AWARDS OR ATTENTION FROM THE PUBLISHERS STEMS NOT FROM THEIR SUPPOSED LACK OF "WORTH",



AH, YOU SEEM TO BE GETTING IT.
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT SOCIETY WON'T ACKNOWLEDGE ME NOT BECAUSE I'M UNTALENTED, BUT BECAUSE SOCIETY ITSELF IS "SHIT"?

10

WHAT ?
DID YOU REALLY SEA A "RIVER"?
I THINK ... I THINK I SAW A "RIVER" ...
THE "CHAIRMAN" [illegible] ANNOYING IF YOU DON'T HUMOR HIM, ESPECIALLY LATELY.
DON'T YOU [illegible] A LOAD OF BS? THE "RIVER" THAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT.
...IT WOULD BE NICE IF THE TWO OF US COULD SAIL ON A BOAT SOMEDAY, WOULDN'T IT?
WE WERE ON A BOAT, YOU AND I.
A VERY WIDE RIVER, LIKE THE TAMA RIVER.

SOY SAUCE

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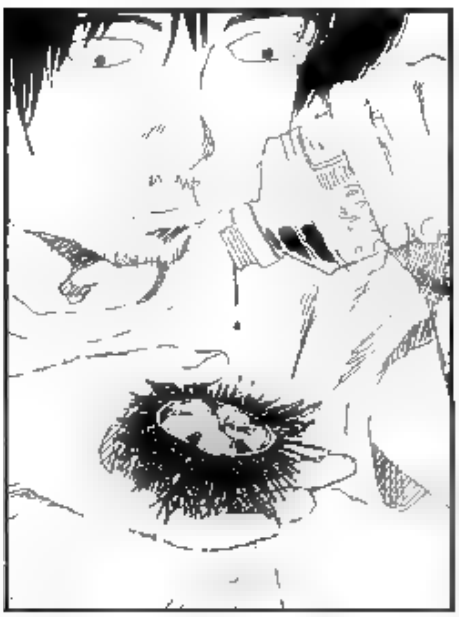

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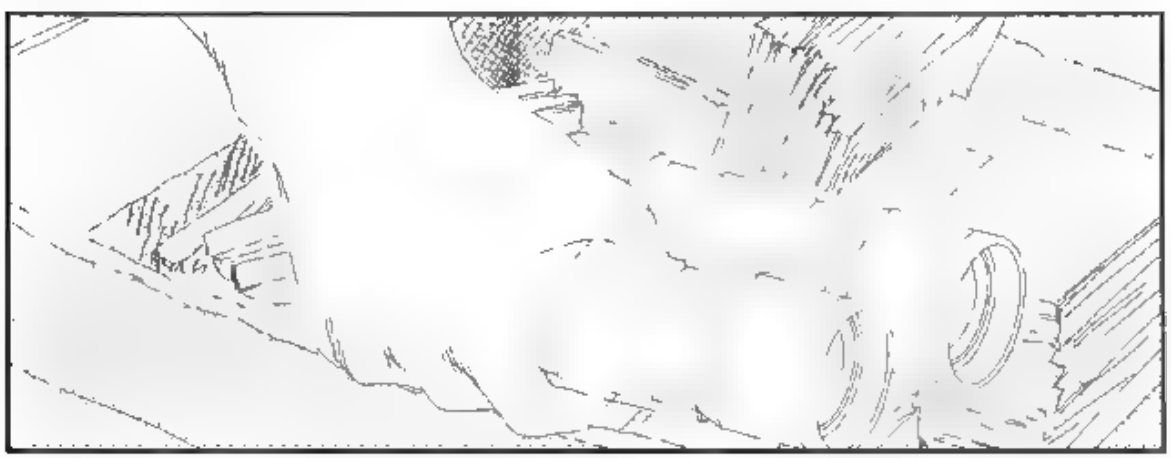
EVER SINCE WHEN ...?

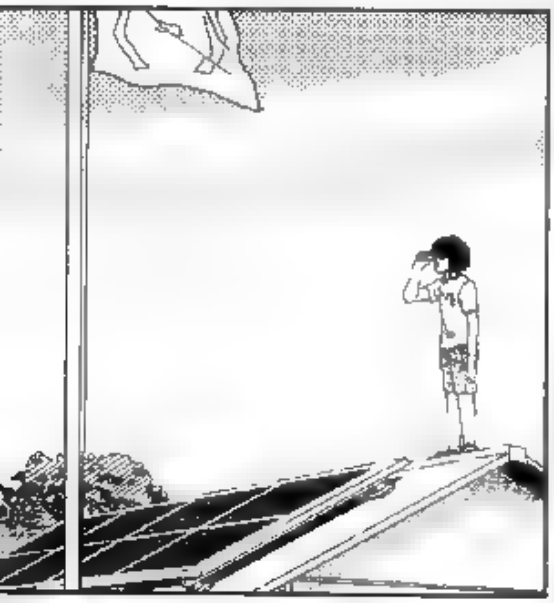
I'VE BEEN HAVING THESE DREAMS EVER SINCE...

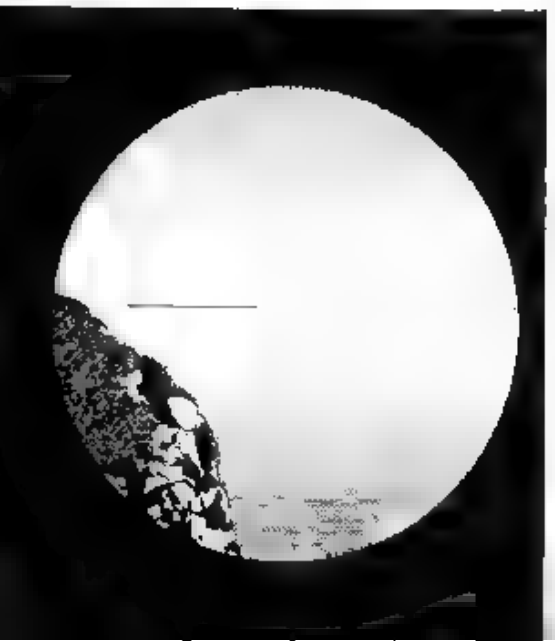
13

I'M HAVING THESE DREAMS WHERE YOU AND I ARE EMBRACING EACH OTHER, WITHOUT ANY CLOTHES ON.

14







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OH

CHAPTER 10
SCUM
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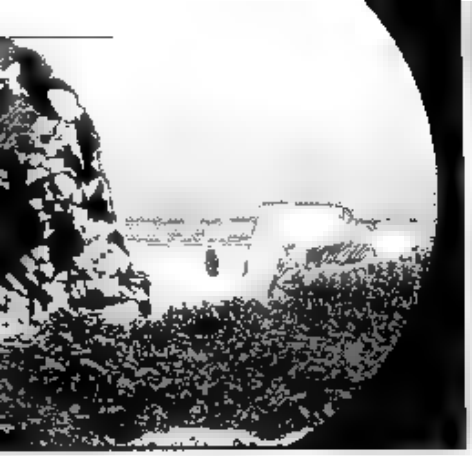

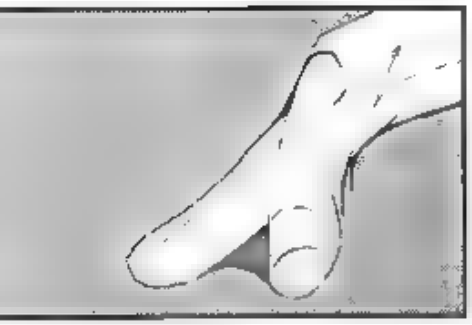

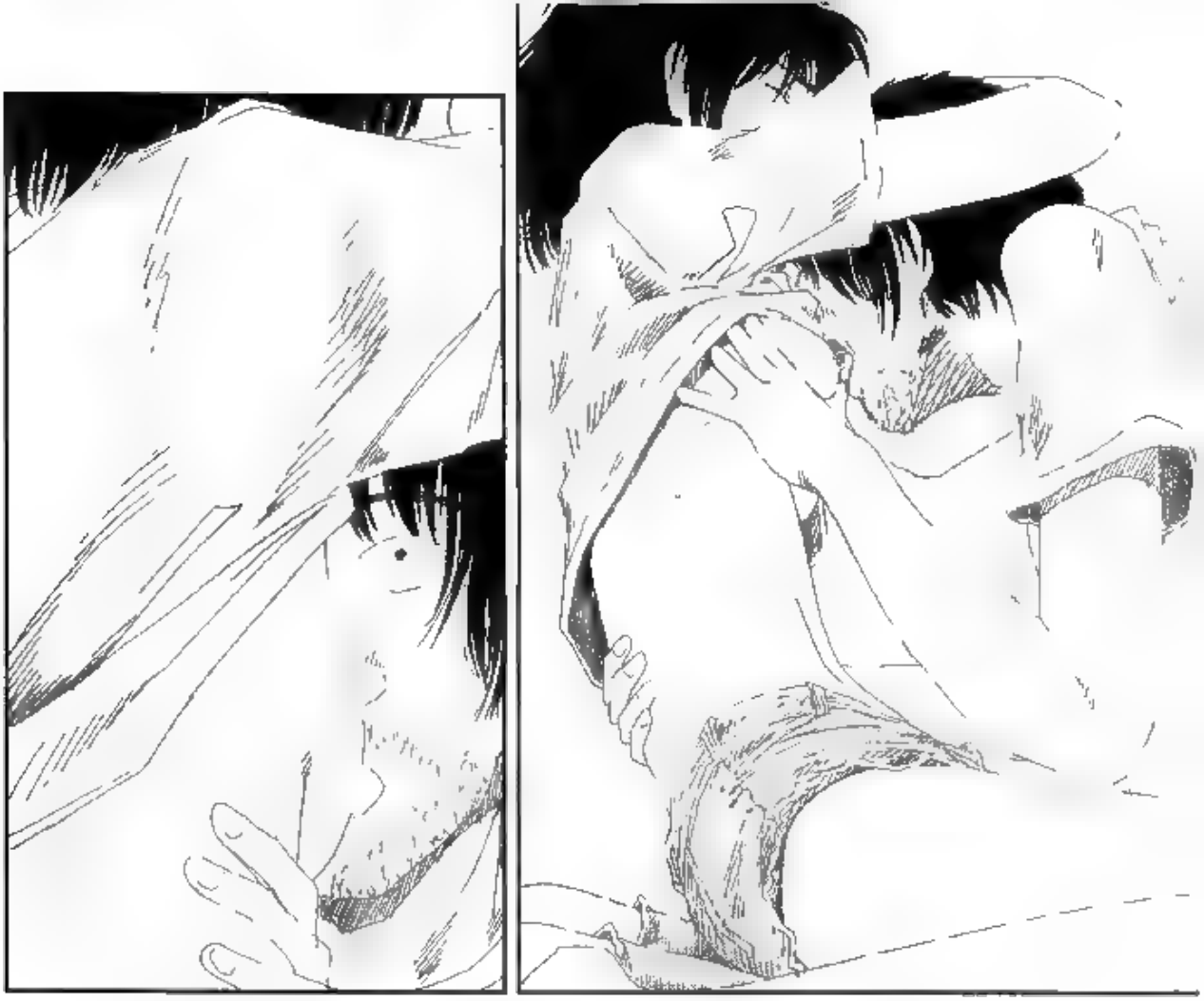

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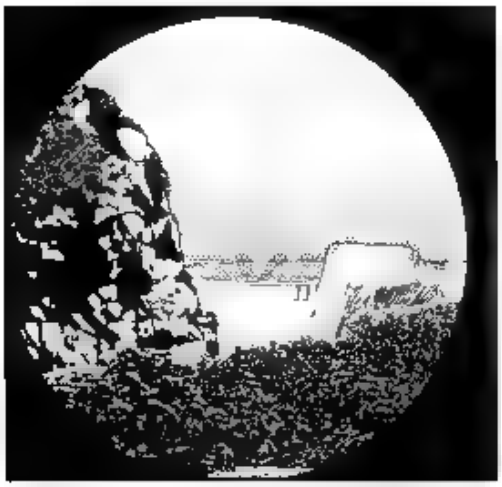
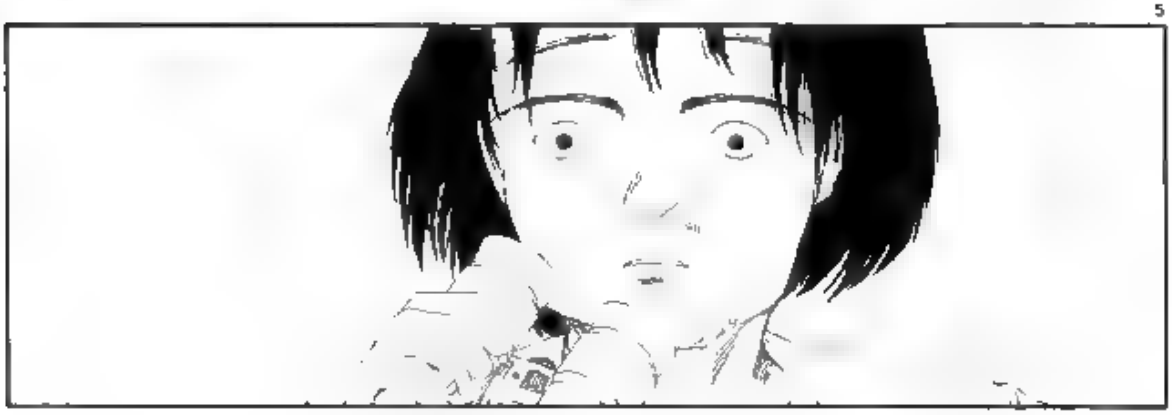


HE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SEE FROM THAT FAR AWAY...
I WONDER IF HE CAN SEE WHAT WE'RE DOING.

5



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WHAT IF "CHAIR-MAN" COMES ...?
HE'LL NEVER MAKE IT HERE WITH THAT BURN OF HIS.

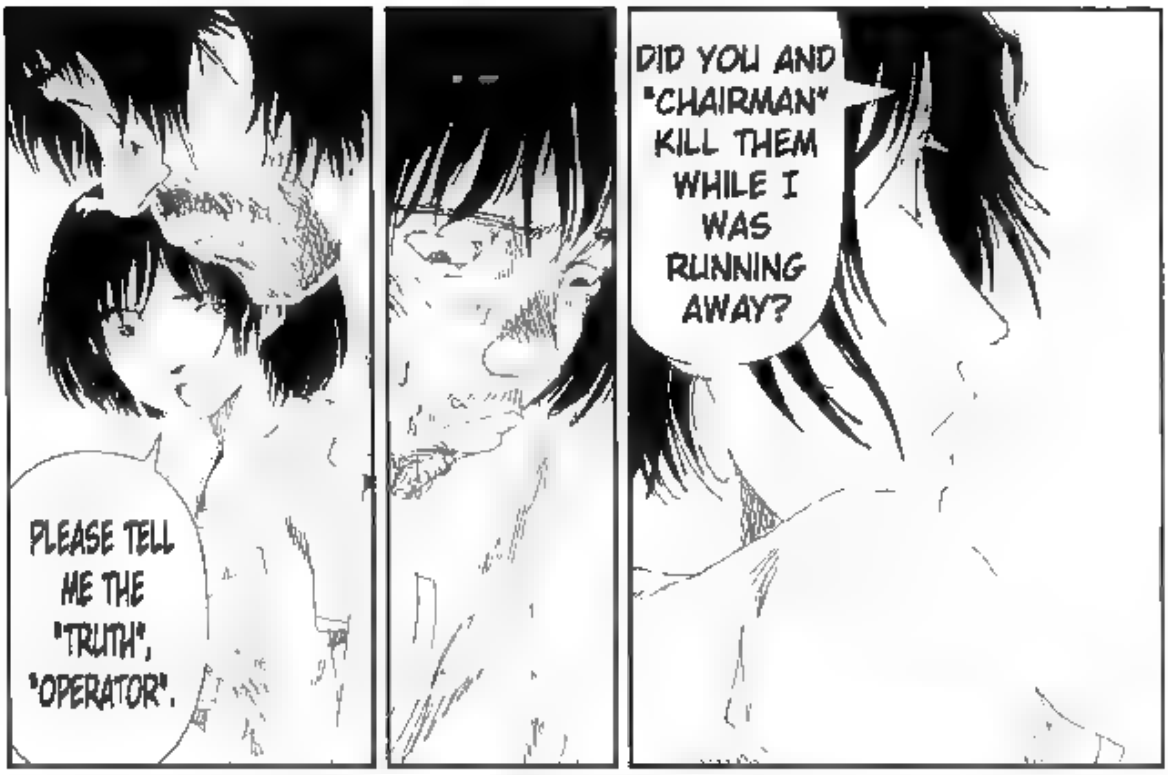
YOU'RE MAKING ME FEEL...
NO ...
NO...
DOES IT HURT ?
8
AH
IT FEELS SO GOOD ...

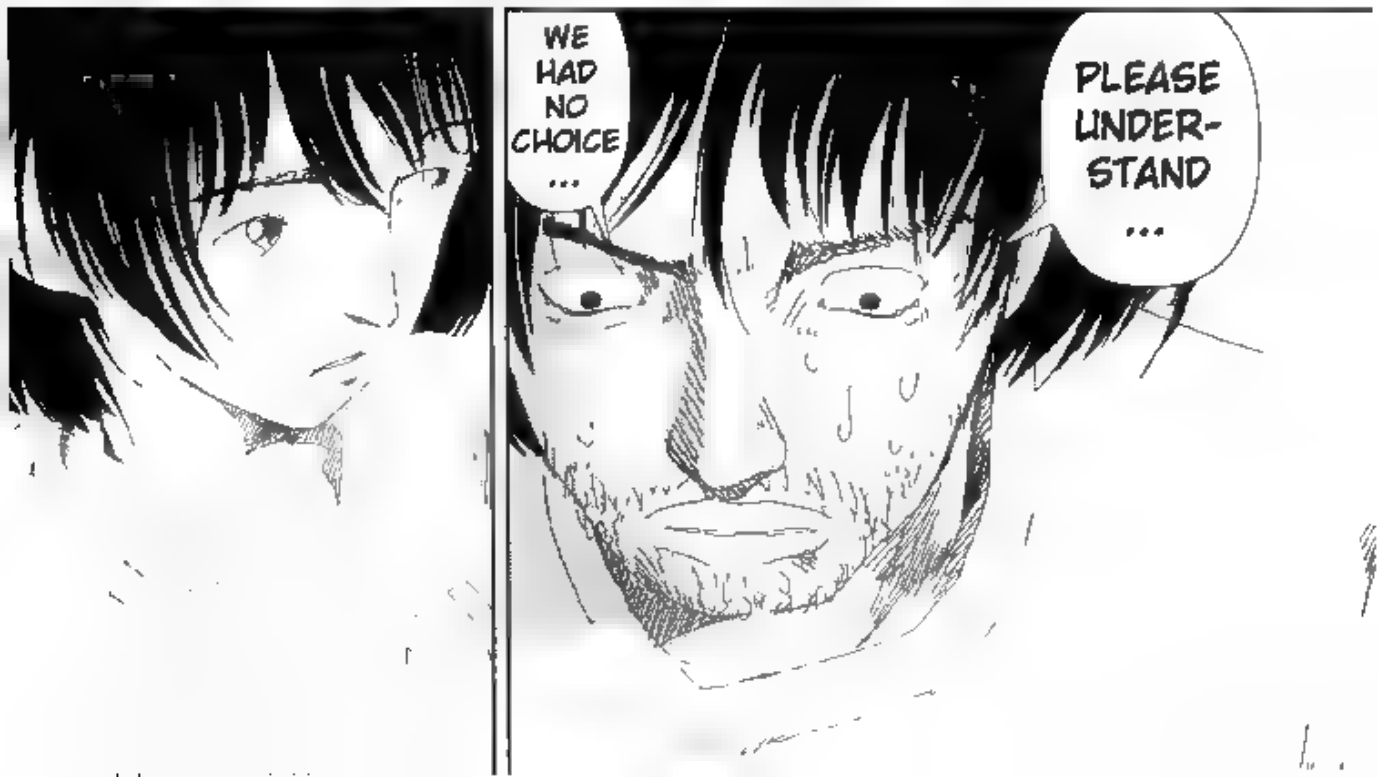
OH.
IT'S DIRTY DOWN THERE ...
IT'S NOT DIRTY AT ALL.
I LIKE THE SMELL ...

PLEASE ...
DON'T SPREAD IT OUT LIKE THAT...
I'M GOING TO COME...
NO, DON'T ...

AH!

12


PLEASE TELL ME THE "TRUTH", "OPERATOR".
DID YOU AND "CHAIRMAN" KILL THEM WHILE I WAS RUNNING AWAY?


WE HAD NO CHOICE ...
PLEASE UNDER-STAND ...

YES, YOU'RE RIGHT. THOSE "SCUM" DIDN'T DESERVE TO LIVE. THERE WAS NO CHOICE BUT TO KILL THEM.

14

AH.

"VICE CHAIR-MAN"...

YOU MUSTN'T ...

?!

PLEASE DON'T [redacted] THE "3RD DIVISION CHIEF".
OR IS IT BECAUSE OF THE "3RD DIVISION CHIEF"?
BECAUSE IT'LL GO AGAINST "MASTER'S TEACHINGS" ?
I MIGHT ...
.....
I MIGHT GET PREGNANT.

16

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OH.
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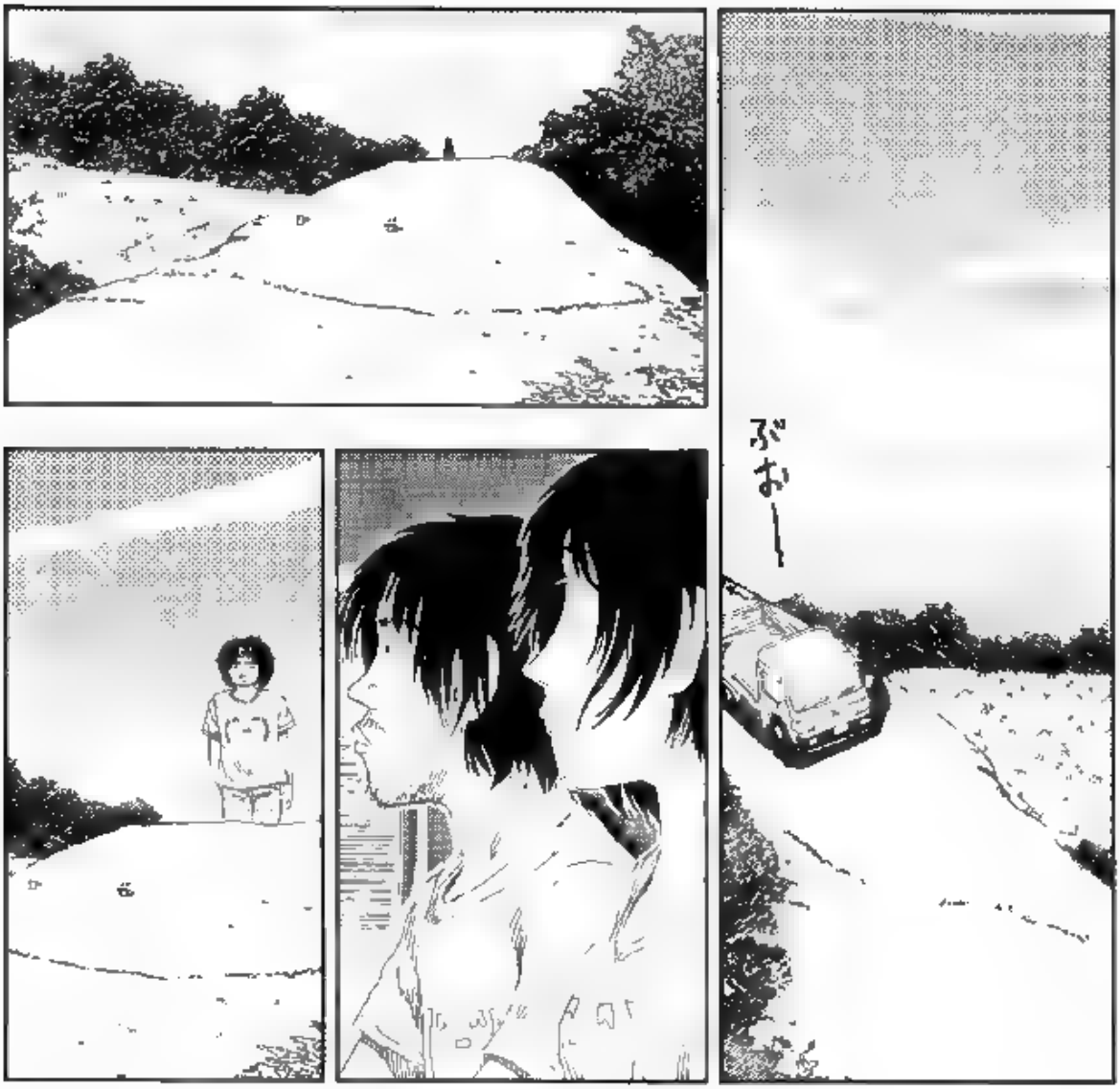


18

CHAPTER 11
EMERGENCY MOTION

PLEASE TELL ME THE "TRUTH".

2

"CHAIRMAN", WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
YES, THAT IS "REALLY" ALL.
IS THAT "REALLY" ALL?
WE WERE JUST PLACING OUR FEET TOGETHER ...
I WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING YOU WERE DOING ON THE BEACH.

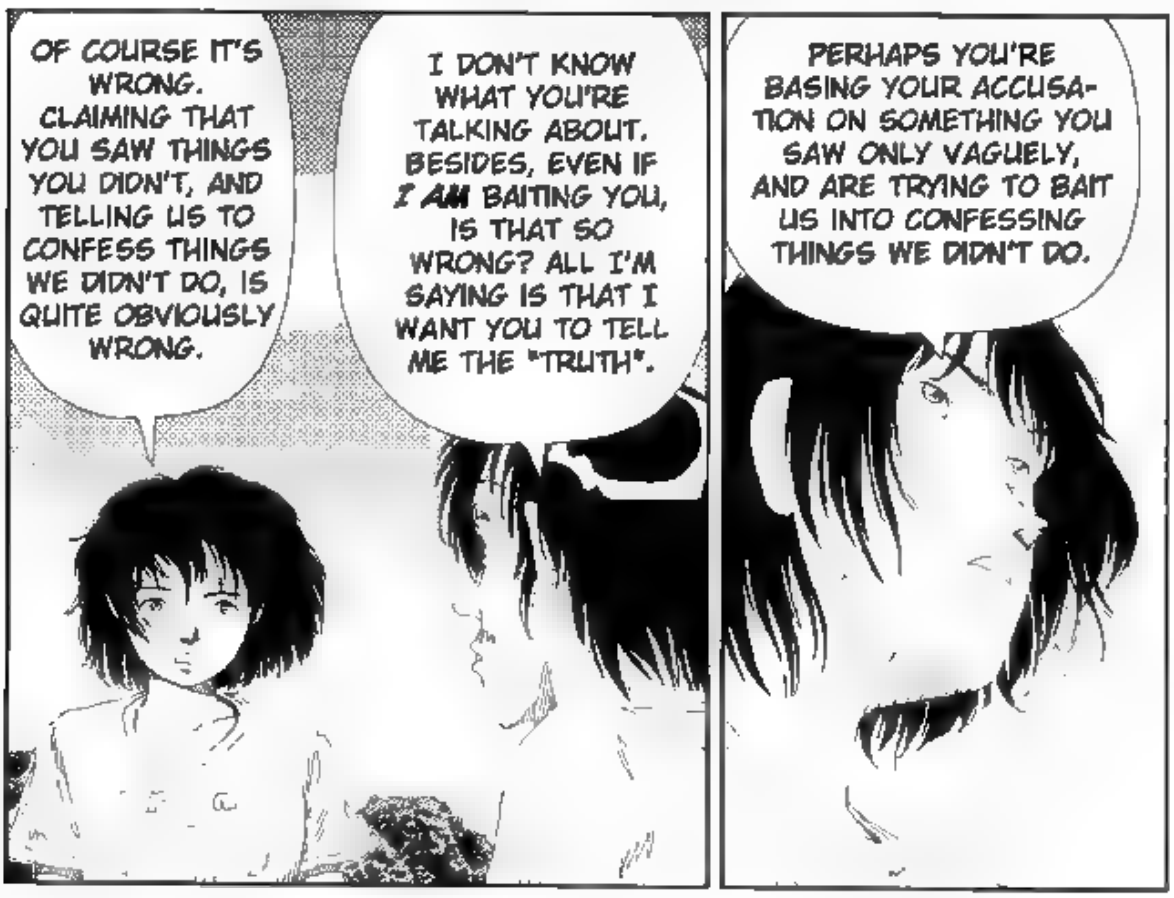
I SAW WHAT YOU TWO WERE DOING AT THE BEACH, FROM BEGINNING TO END. YOU WERE DOING MUCH MORE THAN JUST PLACING YOUR FEET TOGETHER.
BUT I WANT TO HEAR IT FROM YOU. I WANT YOU TO CONFESS ME THE "TRUTH" OF THE MATTER, IN FULL DETAIL...

BUT THERE ISN'T ANY-THING TO...
YOU WENT BEHIND A ROCK AFTER THAT.

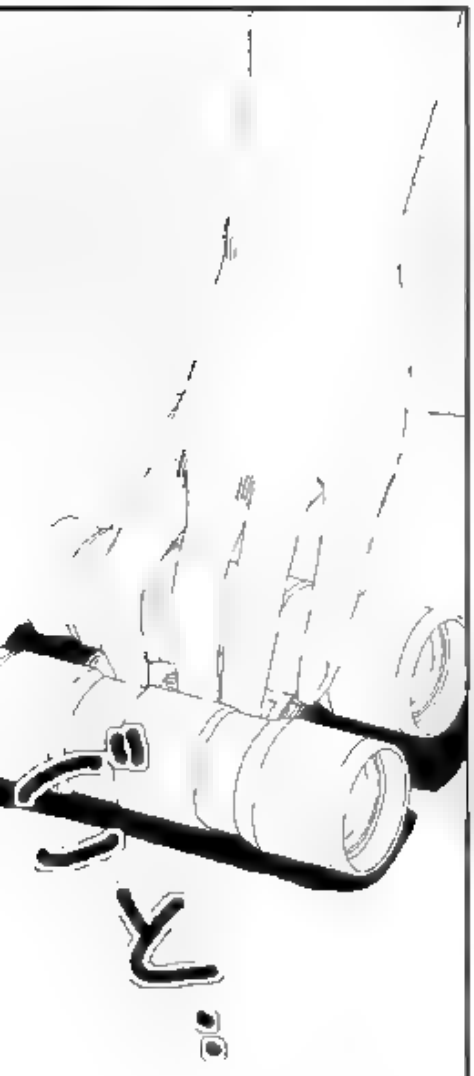
PLEASE TELL ME WHAT YOU WERE DOING BEHIND THE ROCK.

WE...

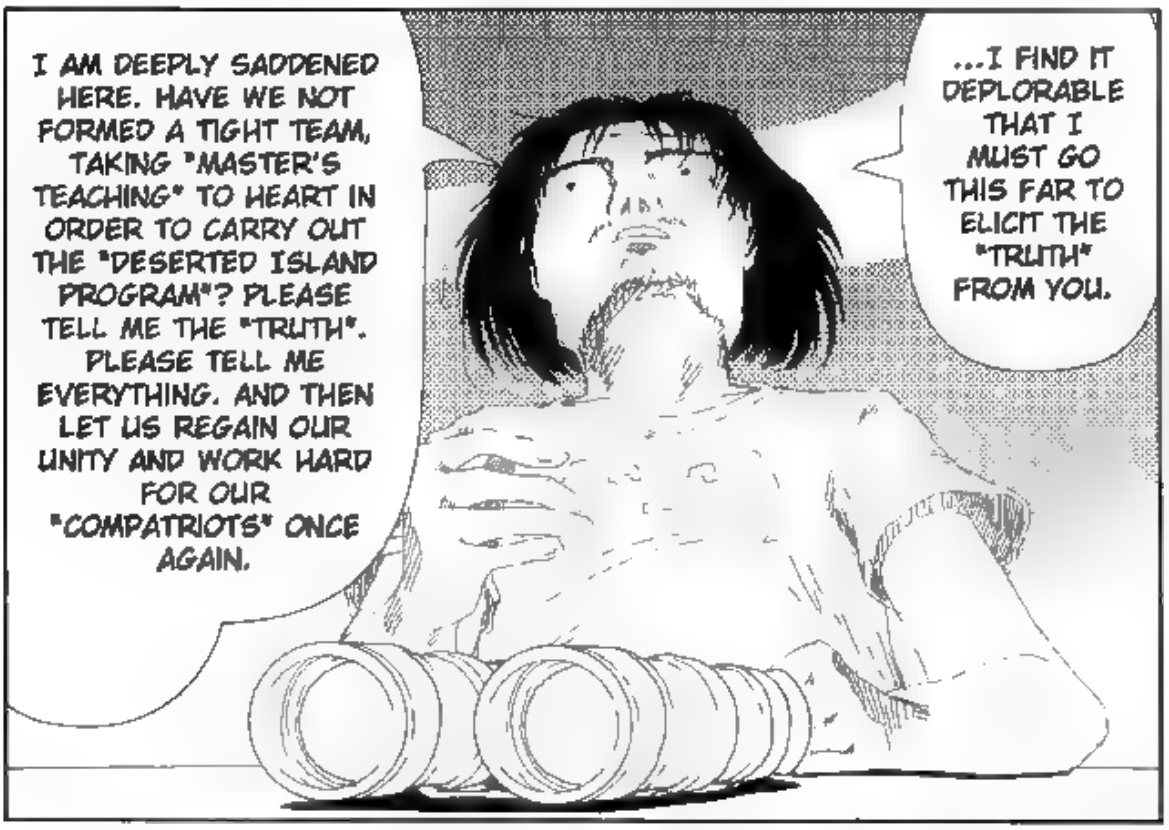
DID YOU REALLY SEE THAT?


OF COURSE IT'S WRONG. CLAIMING THAT YOU SAW THINGS YOU DIDN'T, AND TELLING US TO CONFESS THINGS WE DIDN'T DO, IS QUITE OBVIOUSLY WRONG.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. BESIDES, EVEN IF I AM BAITING YOU, IS THAT SO WRONG? ALL I'M SAYING IS THAT I WANT YOU TO TELL ME THE "TRUTH".
PERHAPS YOU'RE BASING YOUR ACCUSATION ON SOMETHING YOU SAW ONLY VAGUELY, AND ARE TRYING TO BAIT US INTO CONFESSING THINGS WE DIDN'T DO.

MAYBE YOU SAW THINGS THAT YOU DIDN'T REALLY SEE. MAYBE SOMETHING "EVIL" CREPT INSIDE YOUR HEART, CAUSING YOU TO SEE THINGS THAT YOU AREN'T SEEING. MAYBE THE "PROBLEM" LIES IN YOUR MIND.
YOU WERE ON THE ROOF, "CHAIRMAN". IT WOULD'VE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO SEE WHAT WE WERE DOING FROM THERE.



...IT SEEMS THAT I HAVE NO CHOICE.


I AM DEEPLY SADDENED HERE. HAVE WE NOT FORMED A TIGHT TEAM, TAKING "MASTER'S TEACHING" TO HEART IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THE "DESERTED ISLAND PROGRAM"? PLEASE TELL ME THE "TRUTH". PLEASE TELL ME EVERYTHING. AND THEN LET US REGAIN OUR UNITY AND WORK HARD FOR OUR "COMPATRIOTS" ONCE AGAIN.
...I FIND IT DEPLORABLE THAT I MUST GO THIS FAR TO ELICIT THE "TRUTH" FROM YOU.

6

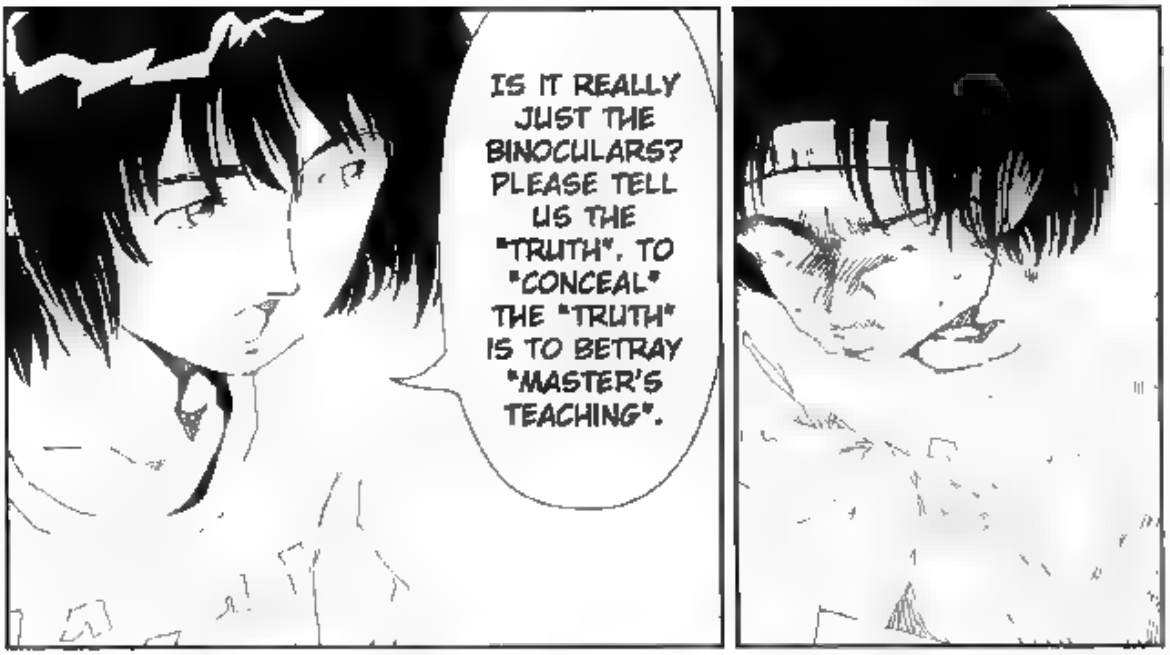
THEY WERE ...

I'M SORRY, WE...
WHERE DID YOU FIND THOSE BIN-OCULARS?

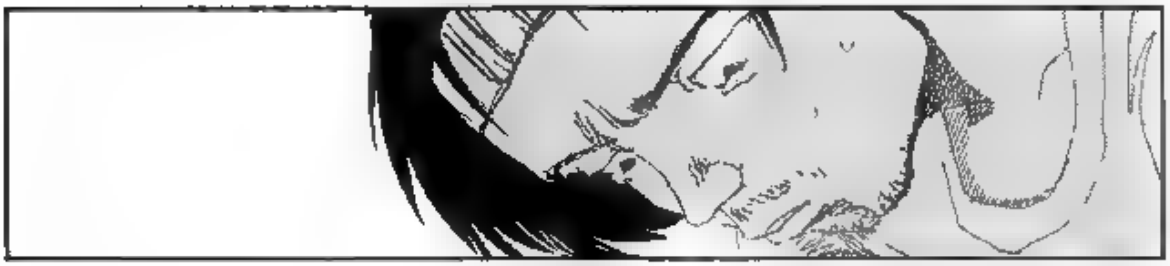
TO TAKE THOSE BINOCULARS FROM THE "SCUM'S" BOAT AND TO "POSSESS" IT AS YOUR OWN IS TO GO AGAINST THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF "MASTER'S TEACHING" THAT "YOU SHALL NOT POSSESS ANYTHING".
ISN'T THAT A GRAVE BREACH OF DISCI-PLINE?

7

BUT YOU WERE HIDING IT UNTIL NOW. WERE YOU NOT THE ONE WHO SAID THAT HARBOR-ING A "SECRET" IS THE MOST UNFORGIVABLE ACT?
BUT I DID MEAN TO REPORT THIS TO THE "1ST DIVISION". IT WASN'T MY INTENTION TO "POSSESS" THESE BINOCULARS AS MY OWN.


IS IT REALLY JUST THE BINOCULARS? PLEASE TELL US THE "TRUTH". TO "CONCEAL" THE "TRUTH" IS TO BETRAY "MASTER'S TEACHING".

IS IT REALLY JUST THE BINOCULARS THAT YOU ARE HIDING?



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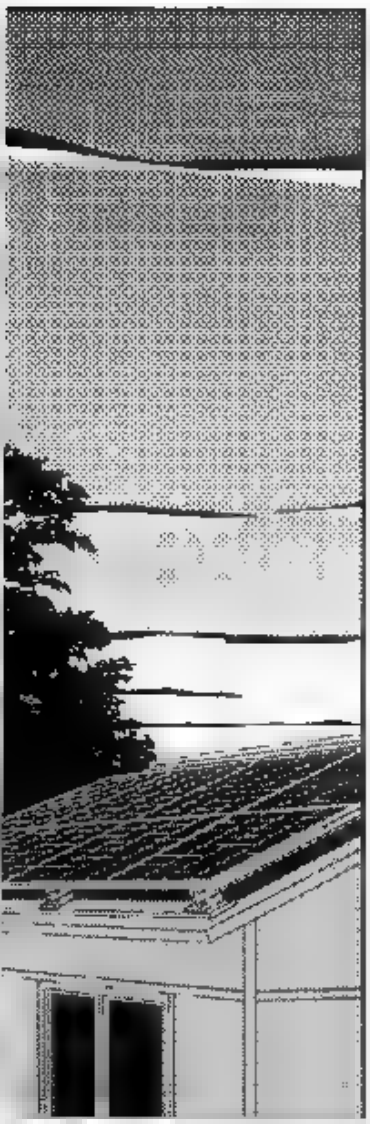
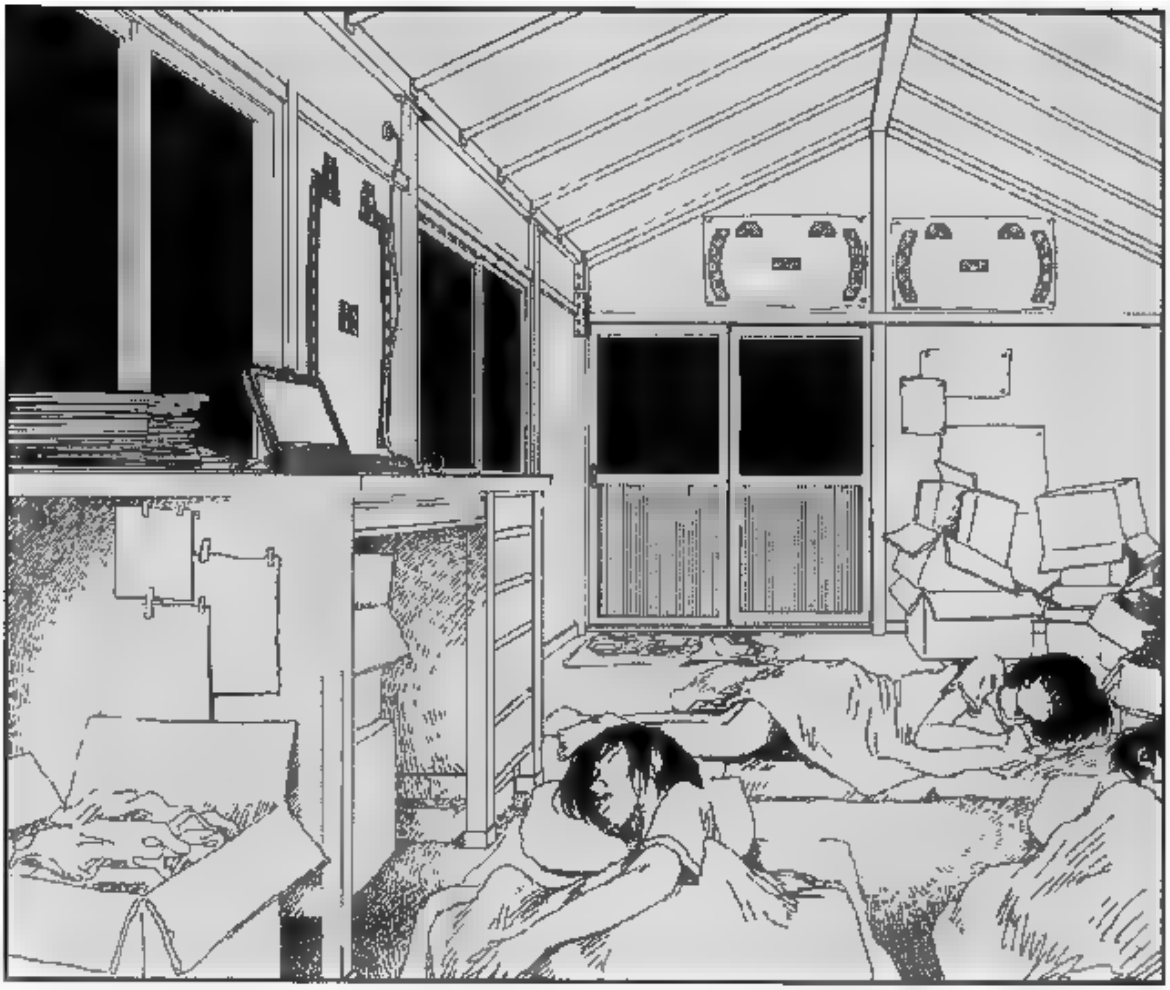
SOY SAUCE



I GUESS ALL THREE OF US STILL HAVE SOME WAYS TO GO BEFORE WE ATTAIN "ENLIGHTEN-MENT".

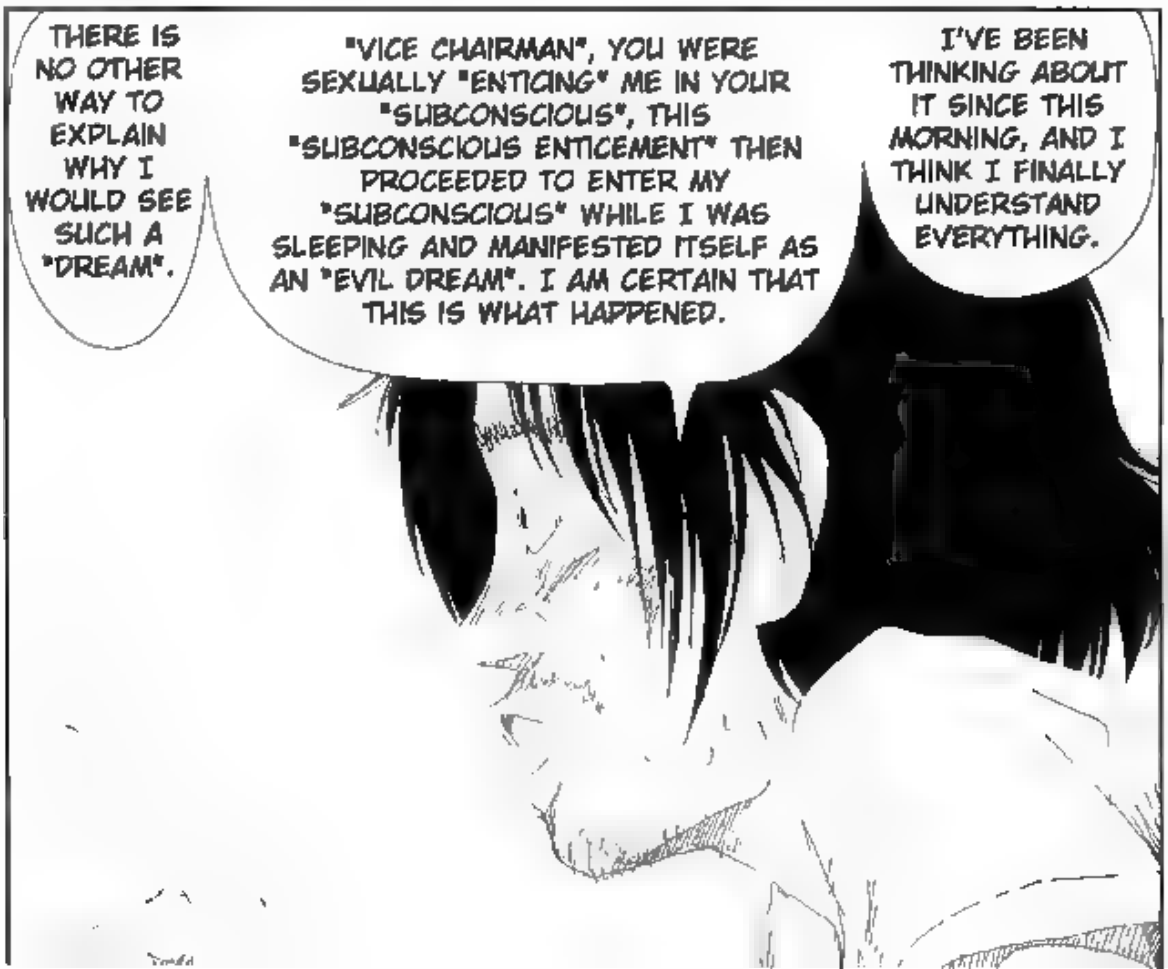


I SAW A "EVIL DREAM" LAST NIGHT.

I DREAMED THAT I HAD "SEXUAL INTER-COURSE" WITH YOU.
YOU WERE IN THE "DREAM", "VICE CHAIRMAN"

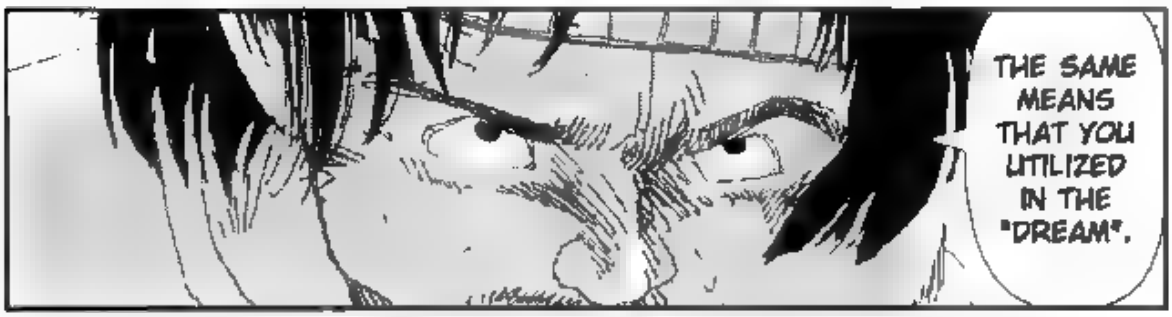
12

...IT'S YOUR FAULT, "VICE CHAIRMAN"
YES, IT IS THE "TRUTH"
IS THAT ... TRUE ?


THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO EXPLAIN WHY I WOULD SEE SUCH A "DREAM".
"VICE CHAIRMAN", YOU WERE SEXUALLY "ENTICING" ME IN YOUR "SUBCONSCIOUS", THIS "SUBCONSCIOUS ENTICEMENT" THEN PROCEEDED TO ENTER MY "SUBCONSCIOUS" WHILE I WAS SLEEPING AND MANIFESTED ITSELF AS AN "EVIL DREAM". I AM CERTAIN THAT THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED.
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT SINCE THIS MORNING, AND I THINK I FINALLY UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING.

I AM SHOCKED, "VICE CHAIRMAN". I TRIED SO HARD TO RESIST, YET YOU ...
THE FACT THAT I SAW AN "EVIL DREAM" DESPITE MY LACK OF ANY LUST WHATSOEVER CAN ONLY POINT TO ONE THING THAT THE PROBLEM LIES WITH THE ONE WHO MADE ME SEE THE "DREAM".
THAT IS BESIDE THE POINT, BECAUSE I DO *NOT* HARBOR ANY KIND OF FILTHY "LUST" TOWARDS "VICE CHAIRMAN". THIS I CAN SWEAR TO "EVERY EXISTENCE OF THE WORLD".
BUT THAT WAS JUST A DREAM YOU SAW ...
THAT IS BESIDE THE POINT!!

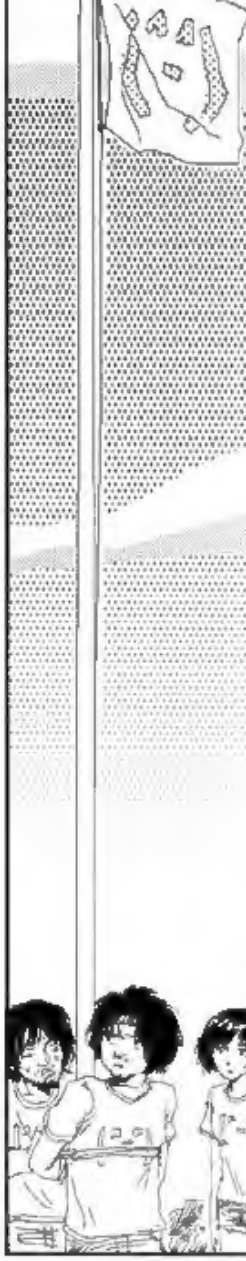
I THINK WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO "DISPOSE" THE EVIL THAT HAS NESTED ITSELF IN MY "DREAM" BY WAY OF "PHYSICAL" MEANS
SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO?


THE SAME MEANS THAT YOU UTILIZED IN THE "DREAM".

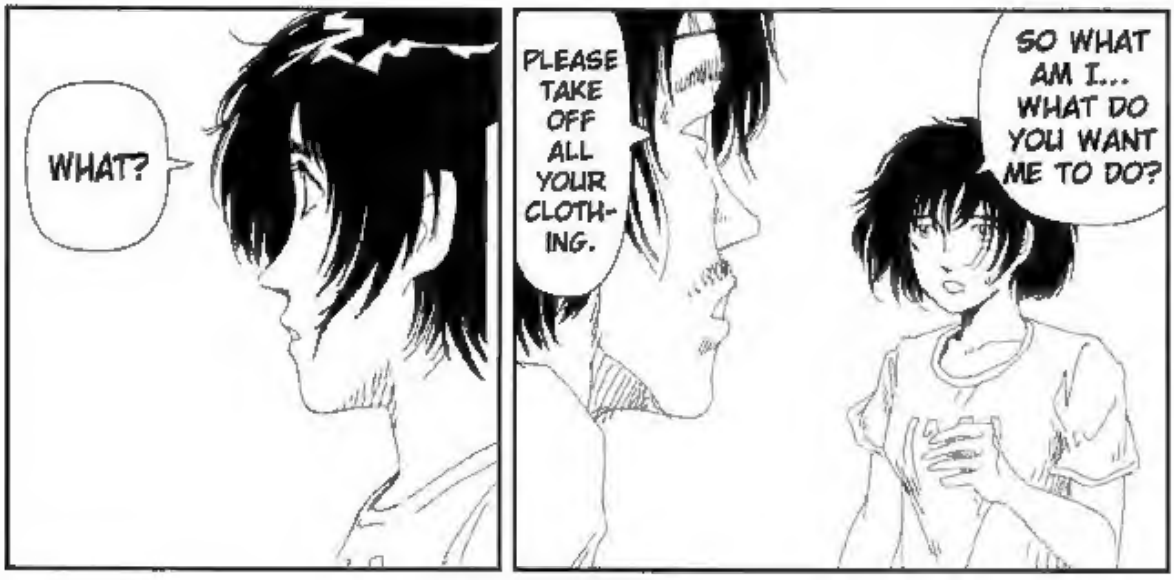
TIE ME UP WITH A ROPE, SO THAT NEITHER MY HANDS NOR MY FEET WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE AN INCH!!

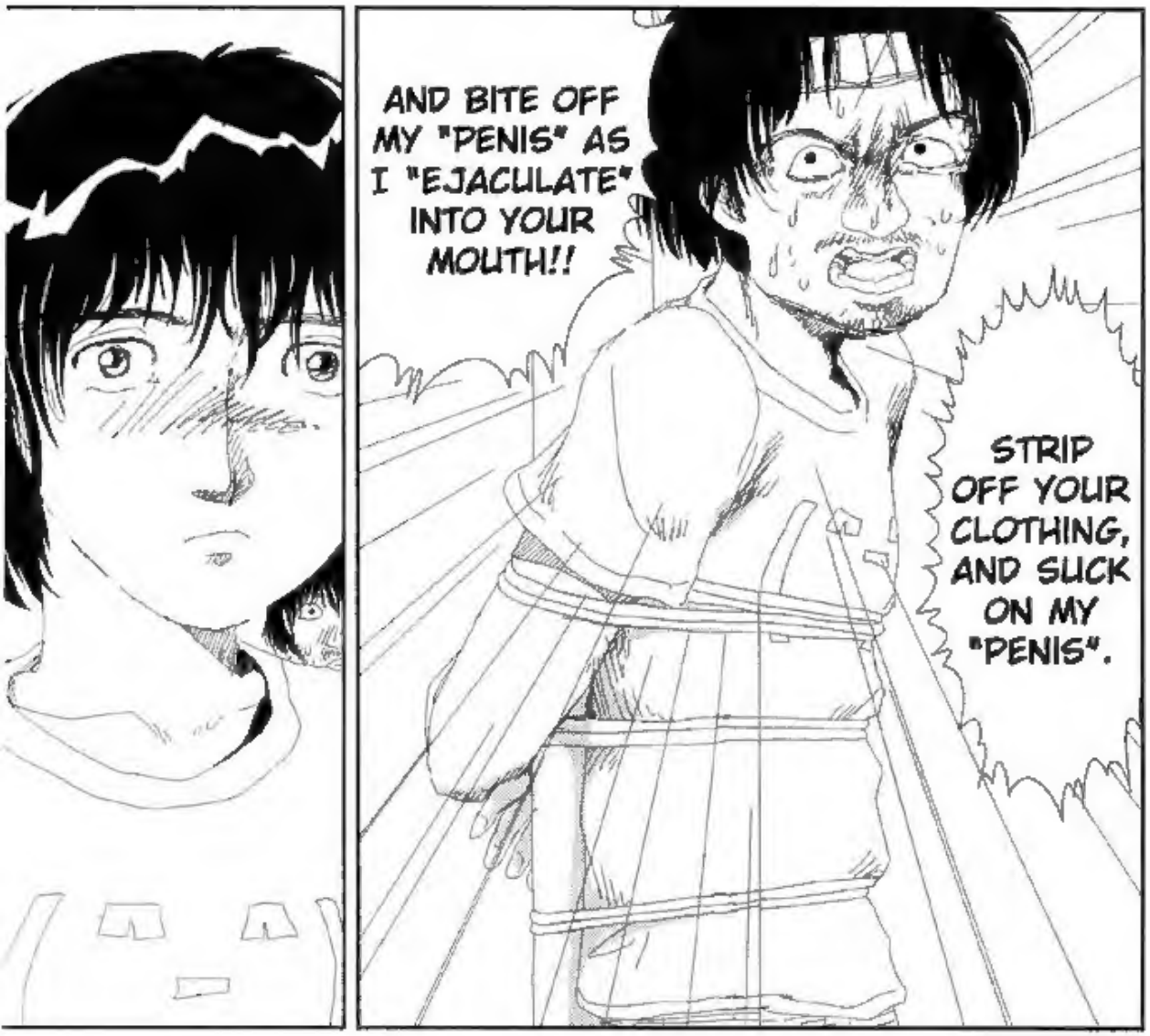
"OPERATOR", PLEASE TIE ME TO A POLE.
WHICH IS...?
WHAT?

WATCH ME AS I BATTLE THE EVIL "LIBIDO" AND EMERGE VICTORI-OUS!!!
NOW WATCH AS I PROVE THAT THIS IS MERELY A "PHYSICAL PROCESS", AND NOT SOME FILTHY ACT TO "FULFILL" MY DESIRE.



16


WHAT?
PLEASE TAKE OFF ALL YOUR CLOTH-ING.
SO WHAT AM I... WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?


AND BITE OFF MY "PENIS" AS I "EJACULATE" INTO YOUR MOUTH!!
STRIP OFF YOUR CLOTHING, AND SUCK ON MY "PENIS".

17

"VICE CHAIR-MAN", YOU MUST !!
I CAN'T DO THAT!! HOW CAN YOU EXPECT ME TO DO SUCH A THING?!

"FEELINGS", YOU SAY?! WHY CAN YOU NOT SEE THAT THIS IS OF FAR MORE IMPORTANCE THAN HOW SOMEONE "FEELS" ?
BUT... WHAT ABOUT THE "3RD DIVISION CHIEF"...? HOW WOULD HE FEEL IF...
DO IT NOW !!
18

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